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WITH A NEIGHBOUR LIKE CHINA, INDIA MUST LEARN TO COMPETE: JAISHANKAR

Boosting domestic manufacturing will help India grow its influence and compete with China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said

'DIPLOMACY IS A WORK OF PATIENCE'

Speaking to PTI on the border dispute, he reiterated that there cannot be a normal relationship between India and China, as long as there is no peace and tranquillity at the border. "If somebody is at your front door in an unfriendly manner, you are not going to go out there and act as though everything is normal," he said, adding that diplomacy is a work of patience

ADDING MUSCLE TO INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- On boosting domestic manufacturing, Jaishankar said building strength at home will allow India to pursue a strong foreign policy
- "If I can build up my manufacturing... I think you are going to find the foreign policy has much more resources and much more tools in its toolkit to actually influence the world," the external affairs minister said | P7

12.87%

AVERAGE YEARLY GROWTH OF INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN 2015 AND 2022

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Poll fate of four ministers to be decided today

Close contests expected in Bihar's Begusarai and Ujiyarpur, and Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE electoral fate of Union minister Giriraj Singh, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, and TMC's firebrand leader Mohua Moitra will be decided on Monday as the fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls will be held across 10 states and Union territories.

This phase of polling is keenly watched because a number of political heavyweights, including four Union ministers, are seeking re-election. Giriraj Singh and MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai are fighting from Bihar's Begusarai and Ujiyarpur, respectively, while MoS Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son is an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, is eyeing a hat-trick from the Uttar Pradesh constituency. Another Union minister, Arjun Munda, is looking to keep his seat from Jharkhand's Khunti.

Nityanand Rai, considered to be right-hand of top BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is pitted against RJD candidate Alok Kumar Mehta in the Kushwaha-Yadav-dominated Ujiyarpur LS seat in Bihar for a third consecutive term.

Among the other prominent candidates are actor-turned politician Shatrughan Sinha (TMC), who is contesting from West Bengal's Asansol, Asaduddin Owaisi who is pitted against BJP's Madhavi Latha in Hyderabad, and Andhra Congress chief Y S Sharmila (Kadapa).

Akhilesh Yadav, who entered the fray at the last minute by replacing his nephew Tej Pratap, is seeking to wrest SP family bastion Kannauj from the BJP. TMC's Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from the Lok Sabha over the cash-for-query allegations, is seeking re-election from Krishnanagar.

The fifth phase of polls will be held on May 20.

PHASE 4 FACTOIDS

96 Lok Sabha seats going to polls in 10 States/UTs

1,717 candidates in the fray | **17.7** crore people eligible to vote, of which **8.73 cr** are women

All **25** seats in Andhra, **17** in Telangana, **13** in UP, **11** in Maharashtra, **8** each in MP and West Bengal, **5** in Bihar, **4** in Jharkhand, **4** in Odisha, and **1** in Jammu & Kashmir going to polls

ANDHRA ASSEMBLY POLLS

Voting to take place for all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, which is facing a triangular contest involving YSRC, Congress-led INDIA bloc, and the NDA comprising BJP, TDP, and Jana Sena Party. Twenty-eight Assembly seats of Odisha are also going to polls

Victim says she was not kidnapped; questions now over Revanna's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

IN a major twist to the kidnapping case of the sexual assault victim, in which SIT had arrested JDS MLA HD Revanna, a video clip said to be of the victim has surfaced on social media. In the clip, the woman claimed that nobody had kidnapped her and Revanna and his son and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna are innocent.

The woman was a domestic help at Revnna's residence when she was allegedly sexually assaulted.

The video comes a day ahead of Revanna's bail plea to be heard in a special court on Monday. In the short clip, the woman says she had visited her relative's house in Hunsur for a few days. But when she saw the news on TV channels that her son Raju had filed a police complaint against Revanna, his close aide Satish Babu and Prajwal, she was shocked, she claimed.

"I was worried why my son had filed a complaint when I was not kidnapped by anybody. I want to clarify that Revanna, Prajwal Revanna and Babanna (Satish Babu) did no harm to me. They have looked after me very well. I have no connection to the video (sleaze video of Prajwal Revanna) released on mobile phones. Nobody harmed me. I have not done anything wrong," she said. The woman also assured the family members that she is fine and will return home soon. P4

Prajwal case: SIT arrests 2

Hassan: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) late on Saturday night arrested two youth in Hassan city for posting on social media obscene videos and photos allegedly showing Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna | P4

Pawar vs Vikhe Patil clan joust in Ahmednagar

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

WHEN Maharashtra revenue minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil's son Sujay failed to get the Congress ticket for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he joined the BJP and won the Ahmednagar seat by 2,77,597 votes against the NCP's Sangram Jagtap.

This time, Jagtap is on Sujay's side since the former is part of the Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP. Yet, Sujay is facing a tough contest as his challenger is Nilesh Lanke of Sharad Pawar's NCP. Lanke resigned as NCP MLA from Parner and joined the Sharad Pawar faction to enter the poll fray.

The Ahmednagar LS seat has been a BJP bastion for the past 20 years. For the first time, it has been challenged by someone who is well connected at the grassroots level. Known for his simplicity, Lanke is just a phone call away for not just party workers but the common citizen as well.

Although the contest is between Sujay and Lanke, its roots lie in a decades-old feud between Sharad Pawar and the Vikhe Patil clan spanning three generations. Sujay's grandfather Balasaheb Vikhe Patil and Sharad Pawar were locked in a tussle over controlling co-operative sugar factories in the region. In 1991, the then Congress leader Sharad Pawar denied Balasaheb the Ahmednagar ticket.

Ahead of 2019 polls, Radhakrishna—who was then with the Congress—had lobbied hard for Sujay's nomination from Ahmednagar. But Pawar refused to let the constituency go to the Congress and fielded Jagtap. Both Sujay and Radhakrishna then defected to the BJP.

Sujay has a powerful family legacy. His father is a minister, as was his grandfather. His great grandfather Vithalrao started Asia's first co-operative sugar factory at Pravaranagar in Ahmednagar district. Besides, Sujay has a vast network of medical and engineering colleges in the district.

The Ahmednagar Lok Sabha constituency has six assembly segments, two of which elected BJP MLAs, one is held by Ajit Pawar's NCP and the rest by the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP.

For Sujay, his father Radhakrishna's constituency Rahat falling in the Shirdi Lok Sabha seat is a disadvantage. He also committed the blunder of mocking Lanke's lack of fluency in English and Hindi. It was seen as an affront by the Marathi speaking masses. Lanke craftily turned it into a rich versus common citizen narrative. Besides, Lanke's free Covid relief centres at Parner have good recall value.

Sujay is banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma, the party's electoral machinery and his own network for his re-election. When the poll verdict is announced on June 4, the Ahmednagar outcome would be keenly watched. Ahmednagar goes to polls on May 13.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

Nilesh Lanke (left) and Sujay Vikhe Patil

ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

EXPRESS READ

Metro line to Madavara to open by July-end

Bengaluru: After a five-year delay, Namma Metro's Nagasandra to Madavara line, a 3.7-km stretch, is on course to open for operations by July-end. The line was to open in August 2019, but multiple problems dogged it | P2

Cash seizure: ED summons J'khand min

Ranchi: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Jharkhand Rural Development Minister and Congress leader Alamgir Alam for questioning on May 14 after Rs 32 crore cash was seized from his staffers | P7

Boy crushed to death by car driven by uncle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a shocker, a five-year-old boy was crushed to death by his father's car being driven by his maternal uncle here on Sunday morning. The uncle, who was asked to wash the car by the child's father, had started the car out of curiosity and ended up killing the child. The family of the deceased boy, **Arav**, stays on 3rd Cross, Nanja Reddy Colony in Murugeshpalya. The Jeevan Bima Nagar traffic police registered a case and arrested the accused, Devaraj (18), who is a college student.

Around 10 am, Arav's father handed over his car key to Devaraj asking him to wash the vehicle. After that, the child's parents went inside the house and Arav was playing on the road along with other children, the police said. Devaraj, who headed out to clean the car, out of curiosity inserted the key in the ignition and turned it on. The vehicle started moving and a panicked Devaraj, instead of applying brakes, pressed the accelerator. The car rushed forward and crashed into some two-wheelers and also ended up hitting Arav, the police said. P3

IMD scouts skyscrapers in B'luru for weather radar

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) is looking for space on the rooftop of the city's tall skyscrapers to set up a Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) as it is unable to find an area without any structures in its 30-40 km radius. The presence of a structure interrupts accurate weather readings and forecasts that the radar puts out every three hours.

Given the varying weather conditions of Bengaluru, the city needs its own DWR for accurate and timely weather readings. At present, IMD is using data available from the radars installed in Goa and Tamil Nadu, and via satellites. "Earlier, when space was available, the permission was not given by the head office. Now when we have the permission, location is a problem. Since there are no large vacant spaces in Bengaluru, we have suggested using the rooftop of a tall building. We are requesting private companies and the government for space," said an IMD official. CONTINUED ON: P5

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 13.05.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Vaishaka • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Shashti 4.40 am
• **Nakshatra:** Punarvasu 1.29 pm • Moon in Simha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 22°C | MAX 33°C
FORECAST Showers early. Cloudy

Sunrise 05.54 am | Sunset 06.37 pm | Moonrise 10.29 am | Moonset 11.45 pm

Dire conditions at Kalpalli burial ground haunt its staff

People expect us to take care of their concerns, but who will address ours, questions official

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

NO drinking water, unsanitary washrooms with no lights, and lack of basic facilities, such is the situation of Kalpalli burial ground, the largest burial ground in the city, which belongs to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and is completely neglected by the civic body. The burial ground is home to about 40 people, including grave diggers and their families who have been living here for generations. The burial ground also houses the registration office.

"From taking bath to cooking, and using the restroom, about 35-40 people rely on only two tankers water, and six taps, of which only two work that too occasionally. The water quality, and the constant smoke from the pyres have impacted our health. The authorities neglect us, as they know there is no way out for us," said Kiran, a grave digger.

Garlands thrown at Kalpalli burial ground as workers claim they have not been provided with dustbins to discard the waste | EXPRESS

"We have buried not only the dead, but also our own dreams and those of our children," lamented a grave digger.

When TNIE visited the burial ground, Sathya, the only female registrar at the burial ground said, "The conditions of the washrooms are unsanitary, and not suitable for use, especially for women. Despite the construction of two washrooms, their condition remains deplorable."

"When I need to use the washroom, I have to go to my home located nearly a kilometre away. For that, I have to close the office in between, but those who come between this gap, do not understand our situation, nor can we explain it to them. They expect us to be their immediately, start the registration process and address their concerns. But then, what about our basic needs?" Sathya, who took charge as the registrar in 2021, said.

She told that every day, approximately 7-13 dead bodies come here with at least 30-40 people per body. "They often ask for water, and blame us for the lack there of. But where are we supposed to get the water from? We don't even have access to drinking water. The problem worsens during festivals or death anniversaries, when people visiting the graveyard increases," Sathya added.

People often complain that the graves are littered with dried and discarded garlands. However, there is not a single dustbin available in the graveyard," a worker said.

Burial grounds are all about sorrow, pain, and grief. But life here is worse. We live here because our livelihood depends on digging graves. What would happen if we stopped our work? Who would the people turn to, and who would the BBMP rely on?, the workers questioned.

When TNIE reached out to the Joint Commissioner of BBMP East, Saroja BB she said that the issue would be addressed.

Painitng work remains to be completed at the Madavara Metro station before it officially opens for operations | EXPRESS

Nagasandra to Madavara Metro to open by July-end

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE 3.7-km stretch of the Green Line extension of Bengaluru Metro from Nagasandra to Madavara is on course to open for commercial operations by July-end. This marks the end of a five-year delay for this small stretch.

The three stations of Manjunath Nagar, Chikkabidarakallu (earlier Jindal Nagar) and Madavara (BIEC) dot this stretch, which cost Rs 298 crore. It was to be opened in August 2019, but multiple problems dogged it. BMRCL has also built a few roads totalling 3 km to provide access to Anchepalya village and its interiors.

Opening of this stretch will make travelling convenient for thousands of people who visit the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre. Also, residents of Madanayakanahalli and Makali villages and Nelamangala visiting Bengaluru will benefit as the end station will be just 6 km.

BMRCL Managing Director M Maheshwar Rao told TNIE, "The track works have just been completed. We need to test the line in the next couple of months. It is set to open up for operations by July-end."

A senior BMRCL official said painting work inside the stations, laying of granite stones and system works (electrical and signalling) are yet to be completed. "We plan to complete them all by June. After trial runs and inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety, it is likely to open by July end," he said. "There will be no problem with having new coaches as the present Green Line trains need to run to three more stations," the official added.

The small stretch has overcome multiple problems since its inception. "The most recent one is the labour shortage since March. Workers left for different parts of the state for Holi, then Ramzan and now for casting their vote. The architectural work would have been completed by now if they had been here," he added.

Past problems include contractor Simplex Infrastructure not being supplied the raw material to carry out the work resulting in cancellation of the contract, the pandemic, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises not permitting access for the viaduct to pass over NICE Road which was resolved by paying Rs 67.65 lakh.

Politics can make or break relations, say city youth

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE youth of Bengaluru believes that politics isn't just about who's winning elections. It is a potential make-or-break topic for friendships, and possibly partnerships.

A survey conducted by Happn, a dating app, found that 55 per cent of people across all age groups said that differing political views is a red flag.

Individuals between the age of 18-25 strongly believe that both partners should be on the same page when it comes to political opinions. However, individuals above 35 seem to have more tolerance than the younger ones, as only about 27 per cent replied different political opinions are a red flag.

Overall, both, the gen Zs and millennials feel comfortable discussing politics and would want to be a part of such conversations. The survey found that nearly 76 per cent of those in the age group of 26-35 were inclined to have political debates on policies affecting their future.

Youngsters in the country want partners who are passionate about social cause. Around 66 per cent people would prefer individuals who are socially inclined towards a certain cause. In Delhi, at least 44 per cent Gen Zs are willing to tweak their political compass for love, while 66 per cent of those above 36 are rigid on their political views.

EMPTY PROMISES

Residents of Kanminike apts seek separate electricity meters, roads

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) sprawling residential complex at Kanminike (Phase-II & IV), off Mysuru Road, desperately seek separate electricity meters, and direct access from the main road promised six years ago, when the flats were sold. BDA assures the road will be in place by year-end.

Dr Mithra BC, who owns a 3 BHK house told TNIE that due to the temporary electricity connection provided for the residents, electricity bills are huge. "We have a pre-paid electricity arrangement with BESCOM. The contractor pays upto Rs 30,000 a month. We pool in money from the families that have occupied the homes and pay any amount beyond that. Due to heavy consumption during summer, our bill came upto Rs 4,000 per family for both, March and April," he said.

The absence of individual electricity meters was hitting them hard, and causing problems among neighbours, he added. "Out of nine lifts, we are using only one lift so that electricity consumption can be reduced," he added.

AM Thimmaiah, a 2 BHK flat owner said, "This is a beautiful locality with BDA's residential complex built on nearly 50 acres. But the facilities are sorely inadequate and only 50 families have occupied their flats. BDA had promised direct access from the Mysuru Road in 2018. "Our apartment is located 3.5 km from Challaghatta Metro station. When I bought the property, we were promised good road connectivity, running 80 ft wide. It is 2024 now, and we still dont have access to the road. We need to take a detour and pass through Kanminike village to reach our homes," he said.

A top BDA official said, "We acquired upto 800 metres of the road. But due to a cemetery along the route, we could not acquire the remaining land. So, the alignment was changed and another round of land acquisition had to begin. We have got it cleared by the board recently, and the preliminary notification for acquisition has been issued. After the final notification is issued, we can acquire the land and call for tender to ready the road. The process will take some time. We are looking at having a new road by end of 2024 if the acquisition takes place smoothly."

The official conceded that non-installation of electric meters by the contractor was an unresolved issue and needed to be addressed.

MOTHER'S EMBRACE
A street vendor puts her baby to sleep, while also selling cricket merchendise on a noisy road near M Chinnaswamy Stadium, where RCB played Punjab Kings in an IPL clash, on Sunday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Food delivery agents run against time, brave rain, sun

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WITH the mercury hitting high in the day, and rain clogging the roads in the evening, the weather in the city is posing a challenge for the delivery executives associated with food and restaurant aggregators. The delivery agents are facing the harsh consequences of delivering food on time, which is also affecting their salaries.

A delivery executive explained TNIE, "Each restaurant provides a maximum pick-up window of 20 minutes, during which we must collect the order and update its status. However, due to roadblocks or diverted traffic, we often fail to reach the restaurant within this time frame. As a result, the support executive reassigns the order to a new partner which impacts our income."

Siddesh, a delivery executive said, "Our daily earnings range from Rs 1,200 to 1,500, with each delivery requiring us to travel at least 5-8 kilometers, and sometimes more. Previously, we would wait outside popular restaurants to reduce pick-up times, but with growing competition among delivery partners, everyone aims to fulfill more orders to boost earnings, which heavily rely on ratings, tips, and distance travelled.

"To maximize deliveries, we frequently accept orders from restaurants located a few kilometers away. But this poses challenges as we struggle to reach the restaurant in time, during rains. Most of us have opted to e-bikes as they are easy to navigate. However, at times like the recent rains, when the roads are clogged, our movement is also restricted. In just a day or two of rains in the city, our delivery time frame has been affected, and impacted our earning," Siddesh said.

Tushar, a part-time delivery agent told that most customers sign up for premium subscription, which grants them free delivery within a promised time. "However, these deliveries exert pressure on the delivery partners, because if they fail to meet the deadline, the company must compensate to the customers. This directly affects our salaries," he said.

A senior executive from one of the food aggregators told TNIE, "Extending the 20-minute window creates more opportunity for batching orders together. Yet, prolonging the window also results in the initial order waiting longer for pickup, as the executive must wait for other orders to be prepared as well. Likewise, widening the distance between customers allows for more batching opportunities, but it also heightens the risk of compromising customer experience, as it risks orders not being delivered within the promised time frame."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

13TH May : Astrology, some people say, is largely a matter of the imagination. Nothing wrong with that! Physicists are working with particles, such as the 'tachyon', which has 'imaginary mass'. The point is that the cosmos is a place which is intimately bound up with the nature of consciousness. To ancient people, astrology only worked because our minds are so closely connected to the stars.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Another week, another Monday, and what this means for you is a sensible, efficient and organised beginning. Underneath it all, the Moon is in a supportive mood, so everything needs to be taken one step at a time. Yet you can count on getting your own way at home.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Six out of a possible ten planets are in directly supportive positions, backing your interests. That's not a bad tally! You should be able to take life at your own pace today, so anyone who tries to pressurise you could be out of luck. Make the most of any passing good fortune!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Home and domestic matters are bound to take up a fair bit of your time and, even if you're at work, the best way to get on with colleagues will be to imagine you're all part of one big family. Not a perfectly happy one necessarily, but a family nonetheless!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Make serious plans and take practical decisions. It has never been more important to look only at the significant details and put all your hopes, wishes and fanta-sies to one side. Don't be perturbed by delays. But do keep a very close watch on every detail concerning cash.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Although you may be preoccupied with the trivia of material survival, dwelling over questions such as how to save the odd bit of cash here and there, this is in fact a somewhat optimistic and adventurous time. All that is asked of you is that you take the right decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Moon is well situated, strong, supportive and sympathetic. This is a welcome symbolic indication that you can have it all your own way at home, but only if you face up to hidden problems and deep undercurrents. People who think differently should soon be made to apologise for their errors!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Something secret could be bothering you today. Just what this could be is far from clear, but it could be connected with regret for affairs which didn't work out. Stop being such a perfectionist and realise that you can't relive the past - at least, not now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Social influences are looking very pronounced today, if a little serious. What you need from friends now seems to be a sense that they're going to look after you, or provide emotional security. I know this may be asking too much – but I'm sure you can cope!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Career and professional affairs now require their fair share of attention, all the more so if you are laying your own ideas on the line. With just a little shove in the right direction it looks as if your past efforts could be about to bring the desired rewards.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
After last week's energetic stars, this week's point to a shift of gear. You may therefore feel that you have a right to sit down and put your feet up, but any spare time is likely to be disrupted by the need to swing straight back into action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You still seem to imagine nobody else understands you. The key is to listen very carefully to what your imagination is trying to tell you rather than always trying to ignore it. There's just no time to stick your head in the sand - so don't!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You always find criticism difficult, for you allow it to undermine your confidence. However, nothing would do you more good at the present time than a little friendly advice. Romantically, by the way, you could soon be on to a total winner.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

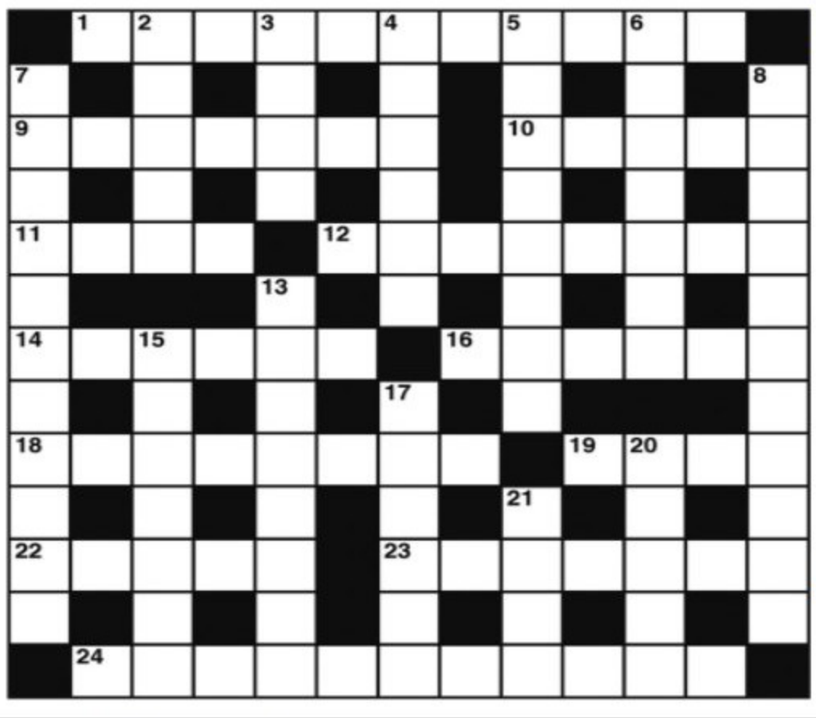
		5	6				8	
7				9		2		
6		1		7		3		9
			7				9	4
	7	9	3		8	5	6	
5	1				9			
3		2		8		6		1
		7		4				5
	9				3	7		

5	4	6	2	1	9	7	3	8
7	3	9	8	5	6	2	1	4
1	8	2	7	3	4	5	6	9
2	1	3	9	6	7	4	8	5
6	7	4	5	8	2	1	9	3
9	5	8	1	4	3	6	2	7
8	9	1	4	2	5	3	7	6
4	6	7	3	9	1	8	5	2
3	2	5	6	7	8	9	4	1

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Now ward boar off with primitive weaponry (3,3,5)
9 Low noise of grouse (7)
10 Its queen visited Solomon and she took a sailor back (5)
11 A state that requires relief (4)
12 I drag gun out for protection (8)
14 150 too many cows eat it (6)
16 Such work might be a rush job (6)
18 Make a suit? (8)
19 Free from any sound of noise pollution (4)
22 It's poisonous, so mother gets a doctor in (5)
23 Watch Rose dancing - not a pretty sight! (7)
24 Way that is perfectly clear (5,6)

DOWN
2 Round electrical safety device that's employable (2,3)
3 New labs make good investments (4)
4 Stopped and prepared a plan (4,2)
5 Check the others before wet weather (8)
6 Needle without an eye? (7)
7 Most appealing feature of a newspaper perhaps (5,6)
8 Supplementary benefit for workers lacking security (6,5)
13 Cloth worker; one in a mess (8)
15 It's best to choose one and keep quiet (7)
17 Puts banknotes into circulation, so one says (6)
20 A quarter after twelve and not a soul to be seen (2-3)
21 Drop and damage (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Submit, 4 Autobahn, 9 Amazon, 10 Admitted, 12 Toil, 13 Marry, 14 Just, 17 Foreign parts, 20 Rambling rose, 23 Eton, 24 Dregs, 25 Palm, 28 Stingray, 29 Godiva, 30 Proceeds, 31 Centre.

Down: 1 Start off, 2 Braziers, 3 Icon, 5 Undertakings, 6 Odin, 7 Arthur, 8 Nudity, 11 Saint Bernard, 15 Lilac, 16 Stage, 18 Moralist, 19 Team game, 21 Lets up, 22 Domino, 26 Ogre, 27 Doze.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

OPUYS

SYATH

TASRIG

MAFYIN

When I saw Levi's overalls, I knew my rivets could make them last longer.
We brought our items together and decided to patent our collaboration.
You two are geniuses!
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
WHEN JACOB DAVIS TEAMED UP WITH LEVI STRAUSS, THE RESULT WAS A PAIR OF ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TREND FLOOR SKIMPY INDIGO
Answer: When they reached the summit in time to see the sunrise, it was the — TOP OF THE MORNING

A 72-year-old farmer was killed by a crocodile on the Doodhganga river bank near Dattawad-Sadalga of Chikkodi taluk in Belagavi district on Friday. His body with bite marks on the left thigh was recovered from the river bank on Saturday morning. The farmer had gone to the river to swim when he was attacked, villagers said

2 CHILD DAYCARE CENTRES SET UP FOR WOMEN COPS

40 children enrolled, facilities at Vidhana Soudha, police commissioner's office

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru city police have set up two daycare centres for women officers to improve their work-life balance and encourage better participation of women in the force.

The initiative aims to support women officers by providing a convenient child care option even as they attend to their duties. They centres have been set up at Vidhana Soudha and at the city police commissioner's office.

On 'Mother's Day' on Sunday, the Bengaluru police shared a video on its X handle, in which women police officers shared their difficulties in balancing work and taking care of their children. They also said how the child care facility is helping them.

Sheela Kumari, a constable working in the VVIP Security Wing at Vidhana Soudha, said she had a small child and faced many problems while coming to duty with her child. "It's not possible to leave the child at home as there is no one to take care and bringing the child to the workplace is also difficult because it's hard to concentrate on work while constantly thinking about the child," she said in the video.

Suma, a woman head constable, mentioned that six months ago, she was leaving her child at a daycare where she paid a monthly fee of Rs 3,000 and had to pay more for every half-an-hour the child spends extra at the centre.

The two daycare centres set up by the police have facilities like toys, books, sleeping couches, chairs, purified water, toilets and food-making amenities, and workers to take care of the children.

A police officer said the two centres take care of 40 children as of now. They were set up under the Project Rashmi of Bengaluru Smart City Ltd.

While there are plans to extend the daycare facility to other police stations, a senior police officer maintained that it is difficult to implement it at all police stations across the city.

SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY OUT AT CHINNASWAMY STADIUM

Bengaluru: To give an unique experience to senior citizens, a demographic often excluded from stadium experiences due to health concerns and logistical challenges, Manipal Hospitals took 20 senior citizens to the IPL match between RCB and Delhi Capitals at Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday. The hospital reached out to the 20 senior citizens, assuring them that their health parameters would be thoroughly checked and their medications monitored before they enter the stadium. Each participant was given a wristband for easy identification, and with the assistance of the RCB team, provided an exclusive entry into the stadium, according to a press release from the hospital. ENS

BBMP to start dental clinics in eight zones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is gearing up to launch free dental clinics on the lines of Namma Clinics, which provides free healthcare, in every zone of the city.

Sources from the Palike said they are flooded with requests from people to start dental clinics to address the oral health problems of citizens as getting treatment from private clinics is a costly affair.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Chief Health Officer Dr Sirajuddin Madani said, "Many poor and working class people are spending a lot of money on their dental health. To lessen the burden, the idea of setting up dental clinics on the lines of Namma Clinics was mooted." He also added that the Palike will tie up with dental colleges to depute doctors at BBMP dental clinics.

He said a final decision on the dental clinics have to be taken by the BBMP Special Commissioner for Health and BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath.

Murder accused found dead in Udupi jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

A murder accused undertrial was found dead in the Udupi jail near Hiriadka on Saturday. The deceased is Anup Shetty, 37, who was being tried for charges of murdering his business partner Ajendra Shetty in Kalavara village of Kundapur in July, 2021. Shetty had gone absconding after Ajendra's murder but was arrested by Udupi police in Goa after some days.

On Saturday, Shetty was found unconscious in the jail and was rushed to hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead. He is suspected to have died of cardiac arrest. Police are waiting for the post-mortem report to ascertain the exact reason behind his sudden death.

On July 30, 2021, Ajendra Shetty, a financier, was hacked to death inside his office located in Kalavara in Kundapur taluk allegedly by Shetty. The incident came to light when the family members grew suspicious as Ajendra did not return home even after 11 pm that night. They rushed to his office and were shocked to see Ajendra lying in a pool of blood.

Complainant Mahendra Shetty, brother of Ajendra, had stated that the victim was brutally murdered e had suspected Shetty's involvement. Shetty had some differences with Ajendra over some business deals and had expressed his disapproval before Ajendra several times.

After the suspicious death of Shetty in Udupi jail on Saturday, the jurisdictional Hiriadka police have registered a case under Section 176 of the CrPC. S A Shirol, jailor, filed a complaint and stated that Shetty was lodged in the jail on August 6, 2021, after an order was passed by a Kundapur court. On May 11 at 2.45 pm, Anup threw up before falling unconscious. A staffer, Nagaraj Kumashi brought the matter to the notice of the jailor and arrangements were made to shift him to the district government hospital.

Actor Chandra assaulted by miscreants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ACTOR Chethan Chandra was badly injured after he was assaulted by a group of miscreants near Kaggalipura police station on the outskirts of the city at 9.15 pm on Sunday. The actor managed to capture the incident on his phone and shared it on social media, which went viral. The video showed Chandra injured and bleeding. The miscreants not only physically assaulted Chandra, but also damaged his car, smashing its windshield and window panes.

Chandra claimed that a drunk motorist hit the rear of his car and tried to flee the scene. When he questioned the motorist, he was confronted by a group of six assailants. After the attack, Chethan rushed to the police station from where the officers took him to a hospital for first aid.

Chandra was the protoganist in films like *Jatre, Shardula, Premism* and *Samyuktha-2*.

The Kaggalipura police have filed a case based on Chandra's complaint.

'Accused doesn't know driving'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE car rushed forward and crashed into some two-wheelers parked on the road. It also ended up hitting Arav, who was playing, the police said. After hearing the loud noise, the parents rushed out of the house and were stunned to see their injured child lying on the road. They immediately shifted Arav to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead because of severe injuries he had suffered, the police said.

Other children playing with Arav and some adults too were injured in the accident. According to another version of the incident, Devaraj is Arav's neighbour.

DCP Vamsi Krishna (East - Traffic) said Devaraj neither has a driver's licence nor knows how to drive a car. The Jeevan Bima Nagar police have booked Devaraj for rash and negligent driving (IPC Section 279), endangering human life (IPC Section 337), and causing death (IPC Section 304A).

Sparsh Hospitals launches specialty centre in Yelahanka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

SPARSH Group of Hospitals unveiled its state-of-the-art super specialty hospital in Yelahanka on Sunday.

The hospital was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. With an investment of around Rs 250 crore, the new hospital boasts of 250 beds, including over 50 critical care beds and a specialised NICU with over 20 beds for newborns, and also features two cutting-edge cath labs and 10 advanced operation theatres. There are 40 specialties along with round-the-clock emergency care and diagnostic services as well as a drive-through pharmacy.

Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil, Chairman and Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon, Sparsh Group of Hospitals, said, "With our dedicated multidisciplinary team of specialists, the hospital aims to revolutionise the patient experience and attain optimal clinical outcomes."

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, Jagadguru Shivarathri Deshikendra Swami and Sparsh Group of Hospitals Chairman and Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil during the launch of the super-speciality centre in Yelahanka on Sunday

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to General Public that My Client **Mr. T.V. Mohan S/o. Mr. Venkataswamy,** residing at Door No. 23, 3rd Main, Paparedy Palya, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 072, Karnataka State has represented that he lost his Original title Documents i.e., 1. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No. 8306/1996 dated 30.12.1996 of SRO Hosur, 2. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No. 3131/2003 dated 29.07.2003 of SRO Hosur, 3. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No. 5729/2012 dated 30.03.2012 of SRO Hosur relating to his properties in Mornapalli Village. In this regard my client who is the Present Owner namely **Mr. T.V. Mohan S/o. Mr. Venkataswamy** filed a complaint before Karnataka State Police and they issued Lost Article Report bearing Serial No. 1047206 dated 10.05.2024. My client hereby issue notice to the General Public that if any person has in any manner right, title, claim and/or interest in respect of the above Land and found the said misplaced Sale Deeds anywhere, he/she may inform to me or to my client in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall treat a Certified True Copies of above said misplaced Sale Deeds as original for further transactions / Alienations. Thereafter no claim will be entertained.

By **K. Velayudham, M.Sc., M.L.,**
Advocate & Notary Public, Hosur.
Mobile : 94430 93345
Date : 12.05.2024 Place : Hosur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has negotiated to purchase the property shown in the Schedule below from **Mr. Rupendra Raju.S,** S/o Mr. Sampath Raju.G, R/at C-1701, Purva Westend, No.1198/55/5, Old Sy.No.55/5, 55/7, Kudlu Bus Stop, Hosur Road, Hongasandra, Kudlu, Bengaluru - 560068 and **Mr. Suresh Babu,** S/o Late J Subramanyam, R/at No.8, 17th Cross, Muniswamappa Layout, Wimak Circle, Jalahalli West, K.G Halli, Bengaluru - 560015. The above-named persons have represented that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my client and **Mr. Rupendra Raju.S and Mr. Suresh Babu,** is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file objections/claims alongwith supporting documents within **15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the above mentioned owner has clear and marketable title to the property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and/or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE and PARCEL of the Property bearing Site No.3, Khatha No.1523, Assessment No.81/10 & 81/11, situated at Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, formerly assigned as Site No.3, Assessment Khatha No.81/10, 81/11/03, New PID No.006-W0992-95, 3rd Cross, Patel Munivenkatappa Layout, Nagawara, Bangalore, Now assigned as Site No.3, Form-B Property Register Extract bearing Sl.No.265, situated at 3rd Cross, Philomena Hospital Road, Patel Munivenkatappa Layout, Nagawara, Bangalore, **Ward No.6,** Ward Name-Thanisandra, Measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet, totally measuring **1200 square feet** and bounded on the:

East by : 20 Feet Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No.4, South by : Site No.2

HITESH KUMAR JAIN, Advocate
HM LEGAL
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042. E: hitu.80@gmail.com
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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	c	(d)	(f)
1	**Mr. Borkute Prafull Wasudeorao (Borrower),** S/o Wasudeorao Borkute, Jawahar Colony, Morshi Taluk, Krisnarajapuram, Amravati - 444905 **Also at : Broadridge Financial Solutions (India) Private Limited, Designation:** Technology Lead, **Department:** Astrid, Divyashree Enclave EPIP, Industrial Area Whitefield, Bangalore-560066 **Also at :** Capgemini India Private Limited, **Designation:** Senior Consultant, **Department:** Testing Operations, **Employee No:** 97392, Pritech Park Sez Building 6B, Bellandur V Varthur Hobli, Oute Bengaluru 560103 **(2) Mrs. Akansha Arvind Ingl (Co-Borrower),** House No.603/A, Gangbai Ghat Road, Near Khimi Hanuman Mandir, Nababpura Mahal, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440032. **both are also at :** No 320, 3rd Floor, B S R Tower, 1st Cross, Varanasi Main Road, Devasandra, Near Mother Teresa School, Bengaluru 560036.	**Loan A/c Nos. (1) 622757314 Rs.32,99,498/- (2) 623409935 Rs. 4,80,212/- (3) 651163089 Rs. 1,51,236/- Total Rs.39,30,946/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six Only) as on 31.03.2024**	03.05.2024 ..... N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2023	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing present converted **Sy.No.32 (old Sy.Nos.32/53 and 32/54)** (Vide Conversion Order No.ALN.(E.B.B.):SR:77/12-13 dated 24.11.2012 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) situated at Varanasi at Jinke Thimmanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli earlier Bangalore South Taluk presently Bangalore East Taluk, now under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike bearing Katha No.24, BBMP Ward No.54, measuring 0-29 guntas (31581 Sq. feet) and bounded as follows: East by : Remaining Portion of Same Sy.No.32 Belongs to L Gangadhar, West by : Remaining Portion of Same Sy.No.32, North by : Property of B.M.Uthappa, South by : P.W.D. Road. **Schedule B :** All that piece parcel of the **Flat No. 320** In **Third Floor** having **super built up area of 1108 sq. feet,** 2 BHK, With an undivided **273 sq. feet** of share, right, title and interest in the land Schedule A Property and one car parking space in the Stilt/basement Floor being the part of the apartment building known as **"BSR TOWERS"** Constructed /under construction over the Schedule A Property with RCC framed structure, Concrete Block Masonry, Main door teak frame and Steam Breach Veneered flush Shutter and room doors sal wood with water proof flush shutters, Powder coated aluminum windows with glass & safety grills, vitrified flooring etc., and bounded as follows : **East by :** Corridor, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Flat No. 321, **South by :** Flat No. 319.
2	**Mr. Rajesh M, (Borrower),** 944, Srisuta Nilya, 4th Cross, Kithaganoor Main Road, Near Tanu Trading Company, Bengaluru 560036 **Also at :** 314, Venkateswara Nilaya, 4th Cross, Ramamurthi Nagar, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru-560016, **Also at :** Life Style International Private Limited, **Designation: Site Enginner, Department:** MK, Max Retail Division 5th Floor, Land Mark Group, International Max Retail, Division 77th Town Center East, Bengaluru 560037, **Also at :** Flat-G2, Ground Floor, Ashrayas Beata Homes, 5th Right Cross, Kodigehalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru- 560036.	**Loan A/c No. 668135895 Rs.36,19,433/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three Only) as on 31.03.2024**	03.05.2024 ..... N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2023	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **Site No.C-69,** in **House List Khatha No.94/49, Old Khatha No.8, New Khatha No.C-69/41, formed in Property Nos.40 & 41,** Situated at Alfa Garden, 5th Right Cross, Kodigehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Now Comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.54, previously under the limits of Mahadevapura CMC, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 58.23 Feet and North to South: 82 Feet, in all measuring 4774.86 Square Feet and bounded on the: **East by :** Site No.C-68, **West by :** Site No.C-70, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Site No.C-84. **Schedule B :** 27 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title and interest proportionate to the built up area in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' above. **Schedule C :** All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential Apartment **Flat bearing No. G-002,** situated in the Ground Floor, in the mult-stored apartment building **"ASHRAYA BEATA HOMES"** constructed in Schedule 'A' land and apartment Flat measuring **1185 Square Feet** of super built up area, together with proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other common areas like landscaped gardens etc., **227 Square Feet** of undivided share, right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the schedule a property, together with One Covered Car Parking Space in the stilt Floor and the building is constructed with Brick and Cement walls, RCC roofing, Steel Windows, Wooden Doors, Vitrified Tiles Flooring with Electricity, Water and Sanitary facility.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 13.05.2024
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

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Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka slammed Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for his statement that PM Narendra Modi will retire at the age of 75. It is certain that Modi will become the PM again, the BJP leader said, adding that Kejriwal does not even know who is the prime ministerial candidate of the I.N.D.I.A bloc. Kejriwal has to go back to jail and he will not be released again, the BJP leader said

SIT WON'T GO ABROAD TO BRING PRAJWAL BACK: HM

Dr G says INTERPOL will share info about MP with Indian agencies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HOME Minister G Parameshwara said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sex scandal allegedly involving JDS MP Prajwal Revanna, will not be going abroad to bring him back, and INTERPOL will share information about him with the Indian agencies, including the CBI.

The home minister told reporters on Sunday that a "Blue Corner" notice has been issued, and INTERPOL will share information with the CBI, from whom they will get information about him.

Prajwal, who is facing serious charges of sexual harassment of several women, is travelling abroad and has not responded to the notices issued by the SIT.

Refusing to divulge more details, the minister said so far, there is no information. "The investigation is under way... we don't want to share any information so as not to affect the investigation," he added.

He requested the public and leaders to be cautious while making statements about the case, if not, based on the statements given by them, they may have to be called for investigation and their statements recorded under Section 41A of the CrPC.

Asked if they will also issue a notice to former CM HD Kumaraswamy for talking about the case in press conferences, the home minister said he believes that the former CM has taken the case seriously. Before giving any statements on this case, one has to be cautious, and this applies to all, Parameshwara cautioned.

Meanwhile, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said the ongoing probe is not in the right direction and the informants were being arrested. The SIT probe lacks direction, and it must be referred to the CBI for a fair investigation. He told reporters on Sunday that the SIT sleuths were not arresting the accused and an impartial investigation was the need of the hour.

False charges framed against Revanna: MLC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"NOBODY should panic. I am in a safe place. I request the police not to harass my family members by visiting our house. As there are small children in our house, they will get scared. As we are labourers, our neighbours will see our family in low light if the police regularly visit our house. Leave us alone. If we face any problem, we will approach the police station. But right now, we have no problem. If my family members suffer any problem, then the police will be responsible. My son had filed a complaint in panic as I was away in a relative's house," the woman said.

But *TNIE* has not independently verified the authenticity of the video doing the rounds on social media platforms and also on television channels.

In the meantime, the relative too claimed that 'victim' had come to her house to get medical treatment at a Hunsur hospital. She said the police, however, had picked her up from their house.

JDS MLC KT Srikantegowda told TNIE that false charges have been framed against Revanna. "The woman's daughter and son-in-law have clearly stated that the woman was not kidnapped. They have given the statement clearing the air. Why should the kidnap charges continue against Revanna when the family members have clarified," he asked.

When *TNIE* contacted the police, they were tight lipped. They only said the SIT is probing the case and they have no further knowledge of it. The state government set up the Special Investigation Team after the alleged sex tapes of Prajwal Revanna surfaced. There are also reports that the woman in the video clip which had gone viral is not the victim but her relative.

2 youth held for uploading alleged Prajwal videos

BR UDAYA KUMAR @ Hassan

Chetan

Likith Gowda

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT) late on Saturday night arrested two youth in Hassan city for posting on social media obscene videos and photos allegedly showing Hassan JDS-BJP Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna.

Six SIT officials from Bengaluru arrived in Hassan on Saturday night and took Likith Gowda and Chetan into custody. The two were interrogated for over four-and-a-half hours at the Cyber crime police station in Hassan. Likith hails from Shravanabelagola in Channarayapatna taluk, while Chetan is from Yelagunda village of Hassan taluk. The two are said to be BJP workers. SIT officials took both in separate vehicles to their villages for spot mahazars. The duo had allegedly put up obscene photos of Prajwal on Facebook and later deleted them.

Sources said SIT officials recovered a pen drive from Likhith and are continuing the investigation.

On April 23, the cyber crime police in Hassan registered cases against Naveen Gowda and six others for allegedly posting obscene photos of Prajwal on social media and also distributing them to the public. The cases were registered based on a complaint filed by JDS worker and advocate Poornachandra Tejasvi.

COUNCIL POLLS

BJP MAY SETTLE FOR 4 SEATS, TO GIVE SOUTH TEACHERS' TO PARTNER JDS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

BJP, which had declared its candidates for five of the six Legislative Council seats (three each of graduates' and teachers') leaving one for its alliance partner JDS, is now likely to give one more seat to the regional party and settle for four seats. The biennial Council polls are on June 3.

JDS patriarch HD Deve Gowda and party state president HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday met to discuss the South Teachers' seat and decided not to leave it for BJP, sources said. "It is our seat which we held previously and the BJP leadership, including former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, is convinced that it should come to us," a JD(S) source said.

But some BJP leaders are not happy. Party spokesperson MG Mahesh told The New Indian Express that the party has already declared a candidate, EC Ningaraj Gowda, for the seat and the decision has been taken by the high command. There cannot be any change, he added.

Ningaraj Gowda said, "It has been decided by the parliamentary board. I will file the nomination papers on May 15. I have no idea of the party leaving the seat to JDS."

But another source said the BJP leadership will give the seat to JDS. If that happens, the regional party will contest from South teachers' and South-West teachers' constituencies that it held previously. This could also help prolong the JDS-BJP alliance amid the raging controversy over the alleged sex tapes of Hassan JDS-BJP Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna.

JDS has already announced BL Bhoje Gowda as its candidate from the South West teachers' seat. It may field former MLC KT Srikante Gowda or businessman Vivekananda from the South Teachers' constituency.

BJP has announced Amarnath Patil from North East Graduates' seat, Dr Dhanajaya Sirji from South West Graduates', A Deve Gowda from Bengaluru Graduates' and YA Narayanaswamy from South East Teachers' and they will take on Congress candidates in direct fights.

Ningaraj Gowda is a former Mysuru University syndicate member. In fact, former MLC Marithibbe Gowda had won the seat from JDS last time, but he recently joined Congress and is contesting as the Congress candidate.

Winning the two seats that it held in the past will come as a big relief for JDS, whose base is getting eroded by national parties in the Old Mysuru region, touted as the Vokkaliga bastion. The electorate for the South Teachers' constituency is teachers from Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan districts. That is the reason the regional party is not willing to leave it for BJP, party sources said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with candidates for the Legislative Council polls, during a Congress strategy meeting at Bharat Jodo Bhavan, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Congress to fight Council polls on the lines of Lok Sabha elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Congress, which has declared its candidates for the biennial polls to the six Council seats (three each of graduates and teachers' constituencies), slated to be held on June 3, will adopt a strategy akin to the recently held Lok Sabha polls.

The party leadership, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, along with their cabinet colleagues and candidates, held a meeting to chalk out a strategy to take on the BJP-JDS alliance.

"We have discussed with our candidates, party leaders and office-bearers and instructed them, including the block Congress heads, to fight this election unitedly," Shivakumar told reporters. "Yes, we would adopt the same strategy we did for the Lok Sabha elections," he informed.

On the BJP-JDS alliance, he said; "Let them have a permanent alliance or even merge with each other. We don't have any objection. It is their internal matter."

According to sources, the leaders discussed various issues that are to be taken up during the campaign and also to back the congress candidates on all terms. Senior leader and MLC Puttanna gave certain suggestions for winning the polls, they added.

Ministers KN Rajanna, Madhu Bangarappa, KPCC working presidents Tanvir Sait and GC Chandrashekar, and party leader Beluru Gopala Krishna also took part in the closed-door meeting.

The Congress has nominated Marithibbe Gowda (South Teachers' seat), DT Srinivas (South East Teachers), Dr Chandrashekar Patil (North East Graduates), Ayanuru Manjunath (South West Graduates'), Ramoji Gowda (Bengaluru Graduates), and KK Manjunath (South West Teachers seat).

BHAT IRKED OVER MISSING MLC TICKET

UDUPI: Former BJP MLA of Udupi K Raghupathi Bhat expressed his ire after he missed the party ticket to contest from the South West Graduates' constituency to be elected as an MLC. He took to X to express his anguish and posted that the ticket went to a candidate from Shivamogga. On his X handle, @RaghupathiBhat, he stated, 'This decision by the BJP has ended a forty-year old tradition, failing to honour the expectations of the educated voters in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Chikkamagalur and Kodagu, as no tickets were distributed for the teacher's constituency in the coastal region." He stated, "Since 1994, I have served diligently in various capacities within the BJP, as an active worker and also as an office bearer. I have stood as a candidate for the Assembly and secured victory thrice. However, during the last assembly polls, I was replaced without prior notice, and learnt of my replacement through a TV announcement. Despite this, I remained committed to the party. At that time, senior party members assured me of the opportunity to contest in the upcoming graduates' constituency elections. In preparation, I led vigorous graduate membership campaigns... Yet, with the recent MLC ticket distribution, one must ask who will address the injustice inflicted by the BJP's break from tradition, which overlooked the coastal region's teacher's constituency for four decades."

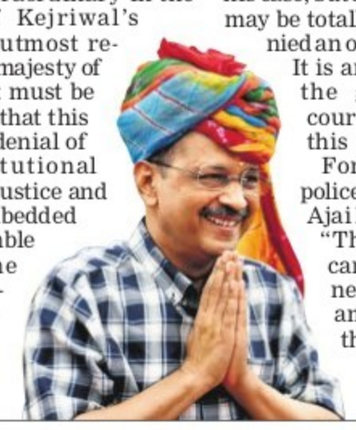
Undertrials can't vote, courts, govt should set it right: Experts

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WHILE Delhi Chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** is out of prison and can cast his vote in the Lok Sabha elections in the next few days, other undertrial prisoners are not so lucky. Lakhs of such prisoners, put in for petty offences, are languishing in jails across the country as they have little or no legal representation to apply for bail.

Though they are not found guilty yet, their constitutional right to vote is denied by the system. Section 62-5 in the Representation of People's Act 1951 says, ''No person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise or is in the lawful custody of the police.''

Venkatesh Nayak, National Director of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative based out of Delhi, said, "Lack of legal representation or money to pay for sureties deprive them of the right to vote. Though no court has found them guilty, their constitutional right to vote is denied by the system. The Supreme Court, recognising campaigning as a fundamental right being the leader of a recognised political party, granted interim bail to Kejriwal. But voters are primary stakeholders in any election. A PIL challenging the denial of the right to vote for those in prison or police custody is pending before the Supreme Court for long. The rights of incarcerated persons, whose names continue to remain on the electoral rolls, are denied in every election because the apex court has not recognised this issue as extraordinary in the manner of Kejriwal's case. With utmost respect to the majesty of the court, it must be pointed out that this is clearly a denial of the constitutional promise of justice and equality embedded in the Preamble and also the fundamental right to equal treatment by the law under Article 14."



Retired senior IAS officer MG Devasahayam said, "It is strange that a person who is convicted can contest an election and win if there is a stay in his case, but an undertrial, who may be totally innocent, is denied an opportunity to vote. It is an anomaly. Either the government or courts need to address this issue."

Former Bengaluru police commissioner Dr Ajai Kumar Singh said, "The law says they cannot vote. The law needs to be suitably amended to allow them to vote."

Supreme Court advocate KV Dhananjay said, ''It is time for Parliament to modify this law to allow undertrials to vote. One should note that the law even allows a convicted legislator who stands automatically disqualified under the law to still retain his legislative seat through judicial intervention. There is no reason why the law should not allow undertrials who are presumed innocent to vote."

Justice Hari Paranthaman, a former High court judge, said, "Perhaps it is too late to affect this outcome before this election. Someone concerned could have raised this issue well before the elections."

Will the system take up the issue and enact legislation? Only time will tell.

Election over... After people power, netas bet on divine power

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Ballari

A priest blesses BJP candidate for the Ballari Lok Sabha constituency B Sriramulu at the Eritata temple

WITH the Lok Sabha elections over in the state, it is time now for candidates and their followers to pray for victory. Well-known temples in undivided Ballari district -- Mylaralingeshwara, Kurugodu Basavanna, Ballari Kanaka Durgamma and others -- that people think fulfil one's wishes are seeing a surge in visits by politicians and their acolytes.

The fate of BJP candidate B Sriramulu from the Ballari (Scheduled Tribe reserved) Lok Sabha constituency and his opponent from Congress E Tukaram was sealed on May 6. They are now on temple runs pleading with the Almighty for their victory. Seeing the rush, temples have put up a separate fare charts for politicians and their followers for various special pujas.

A senior BJP leader from Ballari, Narayana Rao, said, "Recently, I and my followers visited Kanaka Durgamma temple in Ballari city and prayed for the victory of Sriramulu. I have taken a vow that I will offer 5,001 coconuts if he wins. The constituency recorded nearly 73 per cent voting and high voter percentage has always helped BJP. I am certain that on June 4, BJP will celebrate across the country and also in Ballari."

Recently, I and my followers visited Kanaka Durgamma temple in Ballari city and prayed for the victory of Sriramulu. I have taken a vow that I will offer 5,001 coconuts if he wins

Narayana Rao, BJP leader

Ballari Congress leader Nagaraj Reddy said, "Our party is not against any religion as we respect all religions. I and lakhs of our party followers have prayed before God Mylaralingeshwara for the victory of Tukaram. We have no doubt that he will win with a margin of at least 2 lakh votes. If he wins, from my team we will donate Rs 5 lakh for the development of the temple. We will celebrate Tukaram's victory on June4."

ONLY WISHES

WON'T CELEBRATE B'DAY DUE TO DROUGHT, SAYS DKS

BENGALURU: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday urged his supporters, party workers and fans not to celebrate his birthday on May 15 in view of the severe drought situation in Karnataka. "I urge my supporters and fans not to celebrate my birthday on May 15, in view of drought situation in the state. Please do not put out any cut-outs, banners, hoardings or organise events for my birthday this year. You may send me your wishes from wherever you are and your love and affection are enough for me," he stated. Shivakumar said he will not be in Bengaluru on his birthday due to his travel to North India for election campaign. "I request party leaders, party workers, supports and fans not to visit to my residence or office on my birthday. Wish me from wherever you are," he urged.

DCM DK Shivakumar has a word with CM Siddaramaiah at a Congress party meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Is Rahul I.N.D.I.A bloc's PM face, asks BJP MP on debate invite to Modi

ENS @ Bengaluru

BJP Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka MP Lahar Singh Siroya on Sunday strongly responded to retired Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur, former High Court Chief Justice AP Shah, and senior journalist N Ram for inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a public debate with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

"If you want Prime Minister Modi to debate Rahul, has the 'khichdi' I.N.D.I.A bloc made him as their prime ministerial candidate? If you declare him the PM candidate, will there be any alliance left? Will the regional leaders ever accept Rahul Gandhi? When there is no basic agreement within the alliance itself, why are you making him look prime ministerial?" questioned Siroya.

The BJP leader also questioned if they are trying to make Rahul look artificially big, because people think of him as a "coward who ran away from Amethi". "He is the biggest failure in world politics. He has lost two general elections and is on the way to losing a third," the BJP leader said.

He said that by inviting Rahul for a debate, they have insulted AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. He said the Congress has treated Kharge like it treated Babu Jagjivan Ram and other senior Dalit leaders. Congress never allowed him to be chief minister, he stated.

Responding, IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge said PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah frequently mention Rahul Gandhi in their speeches, but are unwilling to engage in a debate with him on the nation's pressing issues. "Deploying BJP trolls and minions to challenge the debate itself, only indicates the nervousness of the most 'influential orator' in Independent India," Priyank mentioned.

Forest department officials of Kushalnagar division booked two persons on charges of illegal axing nearly hundred trees in a private coffee estate in Suntikoppa limits. The estate was cleared of the green cover without any permission, for establishment of a commercial site

NATURE'S FURY

Heavy rain destroys standing crops

ENS @Mysuru

STANDING crops in over 400 acres have been destroyed in heavy rains that lashed several regions of Chamarajanagar district on Saturday. The farmers particularly those owning banana plantations were the worst affected as the banana stems were completely damaged. The farmers were in tears as they were expecting a bumper crop in a month.

Mahadevappa of Demanahalli said his banana plantation on three acres was completely destroyed in the rains coupled with winds. Similarly Mohammad Ismail of Alaripura and many other farmers in Haradanahalli and other places have lost their annual crop that was raised by borrowing loans.

The farmers are upset as no officials have visited the field to assess the loss. The rains and wild winds uprooted several trees, damaged prominent roads and inundated low-lying areas. A huge tree was uprooted at the Chamarajeshwara park near Ganesh temple.

Assembly polls crucial for TDP-BJP-JSP; In T'Gana, contest between GOP, saffron party; In Odisha, BJD, BJP leave no stone unturned

YSRC EYES TO RETAIN POWER; TDP, JSP FIGHT TO SURVIVE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayawada

THE stage is set for the electoral battle in the state on Monday. The single phase election is being held to 175 Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State. The polling will be held from 7am to 6pm in 169 Assembly constituencies. In Araku Valley, Paderu and Rampachodavaram Assembly segments, the polling will be held from 7pm to 4pm, and in Palakonda, Kurupam and Saluru from 7 am to 5 pm. In all, 46,389 polling stations have been set up. Foolproof security arrangements have been made to ensure the peaceful conduct of polling. Additional forces have been deployed at 12,438 critical polling stations.

This election is crucial for the TDP-BJP-JSP combine as both the TDP and JSP are fighting for their survival. The YSRC, on the other hand, is keen on retaining power in the State for the second term. The election is also critical for TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh and JSP chief Pawan Kalyan, who lost their last elections. In the 2019 elections, the YSRC won 151, TDP 23 and JSP 1, while the BJP and Congress drew a blank.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his wife YS Bharathi will cast their votes at Bakarapet polling booth in Pulivendula in Kadapa district. He along with his family left for Pulivendula on Sunday evening.

On the other hand, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, his wife Bhuvaneswari, son Lokesh, and daughter-in-law Brahmani will cast their votes at Gade Ramayya-Siarawamma Mandal Parishad School in Undavalli.

Amidst heavy downpour, polling officers carry EVMs and VVPATs to polling centres ahead of the polls in Vijayawada on Sunday

POLLS IN TG TODAY: TEST FOR CONG, BRS FIGHTS FOR LIFE, BJP EYES EXPANSION

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY @Hyderabad

WITH all the three major parties in Telangana — Congress, BRS and BJP — considering the Lok Sabha polls as a matter of prestige, each outfit engaged in a serious battle while armed with their respective agendas. Analysts have predicted that the main contest in the state will be between the grand old and the saffron parties, but the pink party is expected to give the main contenders a run for their money in several segments. However, despite their similar but mutually contradictory wishes, for the Congress, this election in Telangana serves as a crucial referendum; for the BRS, it's a matter of existence; and for the BJP, it's an opportunity to expand its base.

Polling for the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana is set to begin at 7 am on Monday and continue till 6 pm, except in the 13 Assembly segments termed Maoist affected where it ends at 4 pm. As many as 3.31 crore voters will decide if they were satisfied with what the Congress has done in the past five months, analysts said, adding that the primary opposition in the state — the BRS — would look to regain the ground it lost after the Assembly polls while the BJP would want to use it as a stepping stone towards strengthening its grassroots presence in Telangana.

Discussion in political circles suggests that if the Congress wins 10–12 seats, as it had expected, the party will see it as a vote of satisfaction and trust in the rule of Chief Minister A Revannth Reddy. However, even if the BRS manages to win 4–5 seats, it will have made a dent in the expectations of the two national parties and could look to resurge in the state. Meanwhile, the BJP, which is expecting double-digit seats in the state, will look to build a dedicated voter base in the state if results go in its favour or regroup and try again if it has a poor showing. Political observers state that this poll will serve as the report card on the performance of CM A Revanth Reddy and his government in the last five months.

Odisha enters ballot phase today

ENS @ Bhubaneswar

ODISHA is all set to enter the poll arena with voting for four Lok Sabha and 28 Assembly constituencies to go underway in the high stake battlefield across the southern districts on Monday.

Around 62.87 lakh voters, including 30.97 lakh male and 31.89 lakh female, will exercise their franchise at 7,303 booths in the first of the four phase elections in the state. Of them around 1.75 lakh are first timers. As many as 37 candidates are in fray from Koraput, Nabarangpur, Berhampur and Kalahandi LS seats while 243 candidates are in the race from the 28 Assembly segments.

The contest will be keen with both the ruling BJD and main rival BJP leaving no stone unturned to capture the seats while the Congress too is no pushover in this belt of the state. While normal voting time is from 7 am to 6 pm, the duration has been reduced by two hours to 4 pm for multiple booths like Nuapada, Khariar, and other Assembly constituencies due to their sensitive nature.

'DWR needed to study cloud locations, wind pattern'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For DWR, 10x10 metres space is needed. But the dome of the radar has to be at the lowest elevation angle of 0.2 degrees. This angle is ideal for long-distance weather evaluations, to read clouds at low levels and other conditions, and to give accurate weather readings. But for installation at this angle there should not be any high-rise structures within a radius of 30-40 km as the DWR's coverage range would then get obstructed.

"As it is not possible in the city, we are looking for space atop a building that is 25 storeys and above. Once allotted, the government will have to ensure that no other building higher than that comes up within its range, as readings will be affected. Large clear area is needed to see the long echo (the electronic signals that reflect back to the radar's antenna)," the official said.

"A DWR is needed to study thunderstorms, cloud locations, their depth, direction and wind pattern. Once installed, accurate location-wise nowcasts (very short-term forecasts) can be obtained every three hours. We had earlier thought of GKVK, but that did not fit our requirement. We then zeroed in on Hessarghatta, but there is no guarantee from the government on prohibiting further development around the site in the future." IMD is facing a similar space problem in Chennai. Although a DWR is installed near the coast, its 360-degree coverage is affected on one side because of tall buildings in the vicinity.

EXPRESS READ

1 killed, 3 injured after tree falls in C'magaluru

Chikkamagaluru: Heavy rain coupled with gusty winds lashed Malnad since Sunday afternoon. Trees were uprooted and power supply was disrupted as electric poles were uprooted too. In an unfortunate incident, a woman who was walking on the road was killed as a tree fell on her head. The tree fell simultaneously on the woman and a moving car, the woman was killed on the spot. The deceased has been identified as Savita (48) from Koppa. The 3 occupants of the car who were seriously injured in the accident have been admitted to Balehonnur hospital.

The car that was completely crushed after a tree fell on it at Kattinamane in NR Pura taluk in Chikkamagaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

72-year-old farmer killed in crocodile attack in Belagavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

AN aged farmer died after he was attacked by a crocodile on the Doodhganga river bank near Dattawad-Sadalga of Chikkodi taluk on Saturday.

The deceased farmer is identified as Mahadev Punnappa Khure (72), resident of Sadalga village of Chikkodi taluk. On Friday (May 10), Mahadev Khure was doing farm work on his land situated at Kanti area along the river. After his farm work, he went into the river to take a bath. After swimming for some time in the river, while he was returning to the river bank, the crocodile caught his leg and pulled him inside the water, said the villager's.

There was a mark of injury on the left thigh of the farmer Mahadev. The dead body was found in the river bank near the farm of Ramesh Pradhane on Saturday. His body was removed from the river bank by social worker Sukumar Ugare and other villagers. He was survived by wife, two sons. A case has been registered in Sadalga police station. The body was handed over to the family after the autopsy report. The number of crocodiles have seen a drastic rise in the Doodhganga river. After this incident, the fear of crocodiles has increased among the farmers.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach of customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Friday 24-05-2024 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 080-27830505 **FEDGL0088**0004470, 0004476, 0004488, 0004880, 0005256, 0005257, 0005262 **Arakalgud** 08175-220780 **FEDGL0036**0011435, 0011442, 0011448, 0011455, 0011473, 0011475, 0011492, 0011498, 0011504, 0011506, 0011529, 0011530, 0011543, 0011548, 0011549, 0011550, 0011551, 0012243 **Arasikere** 08174-299941 **FEDGL0414**0002986, 0002992, 0003014, 0003015, 0003031, 0003044, 0003056, 0004138 **B H Road** 8162277793 **FEDGL0103**0015962, 0015958, 0016040, 0011895, 0011903, 0011965, 0011966, 0012001, 0012057, 0012058, 0014504, 0015202, 0016037, **FEDBD0103**0000009 **BASAVESHWARA NAGAR** 080 41900282 **FEDGL0011**0012370, 0011139, 0011140, 0011141, 0011142, 0011167, 0011168, 0011187, 0011208, 0011210, 0012101 **BELGAUM** 0831 4201487 **FEDGL0136**0006509, 0005483, 0005493, 0005501, 0005518, 0005519, 0005522, 0005525, 0005531, 0005537, 0005542, 0005549, 0005552, 0006462, 0007475 **BELUR** 08177 222100 **FEDGL0159**0010011, 0010016, 0010018, 0010029, 0010041, 0010043, 0010044, 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0007091, 0007093, 0007094, 0007096, 0007099, 0007125, 0008107, 0009022, 0009559 **Periapatna** 08223-297589 **FEDGL0044**0009969, 0007963, 0007968, 0007994, 0009033, 0010822 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 8041225616 **FEDGL0035**0002828, 0002203, 0002215, 0002225, 0002533 **RAMANAGARA** 080 27275627 **FEDGL0180**0024963, 0024881, 0022010, 0022026, 0022032, 0022035, 0022049, 0022060, 0022090, 0022107, 0023829, 0024880, **FEDDS0180**0000136 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 8214253754 **FEDGL0173**0007004, 0007240, 0007522 **RANEBENNUR** 08373 -297397 **FEDGL0232**0011859, 0010333, 0010334, 0010338, 0010348, 0010350, 0010357, 0010367, 0010374, 0010379, 0010390, 0010392, 0010398, 0010399, 0010402, 0011344, 0011890 **SHIMOGA** 081 23115765 **FEDGL0183**0010364, 0010376, 0010387, 0010418, 0010421, 0010432, 0011258, 0011261, 0011802 **Sindhanur** 08535-200110,8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0003556, 0002148, 0002187, 0002211, 0002223, 0002225, 0002231, 0003555 **Sira** 08135-295620 **FEDGL0376**0010154, 0010206, 0006776, 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0004776, 0004843, 0005984, 0006150, 0006166

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 23-05-2024 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 13-05-2024
Place : Karnataka

For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

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PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LTD.
(Formerly Known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.)
CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639
Registered Office: Unit No.-601,6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (west), Mumbai- 400070 –T +91 22 3802 4000

Branch Office: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400602, Maharashtra
Contact Person: 1. Mr. Anand Kumar N: 9538534358, 2. Mr. Rakesh Chander: 96633682603, 3. Mr Balaji P: 9840798878
E-Auction Sale Notice- Fresh Sale

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (Formerly Known as DHFL) under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on **'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis', 'Whatever Is There Is Basis' and 'No Recourse Basis',** Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code/ Branch/ Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address _final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (02-04-2024)
Loan Code No. 00006086, Bengaluru - (Branch), M/S. Sajjan Builders and Developers (Borrower), Mr. Vijay Kumar (Guarantors) Mr. Boorlagadda Naga NV Sudheer (Guarantors) Ms. Shameen Nazeem (Guarantors) Mr. Syed Mazhar Hussain (Guarantors)	Dt: 31/12/2018, Rs. 8,58,74,029/-, (Rs. Rupees Eight Crores Fifty Eight Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Twenty Nine Rupees Only)	Exclusive Charge By Way of Mortgage of Land Located At S No. 26/1, Khata No. 313 Admeasuring 2 Acres, S. No. 26/7 Admeasuring 34 Gunthas And S. No. 25/7 Admeasuring 1 Acre And 20 Gunthas Situated At Kesartagi Village, Gulbarga Taluk And District Gulbarga Owned By Mr. Vijay Kumar (Partner) Along With Present And Future Constructions Thereon Excluding "Sold And Registered" Units	Rs. 1,18,70,000/- (Rs. One Crore Eighteen Lakhs Seventy Thousand Only)	Rs. 11,87,000/- (Rs. Eleven Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Only)	Rs. 14,68,57,273/- (Rs. Fourteen Crore Sixty Eight lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Three Only)

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 18-06-2024, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 17-06-2024, BEFORE 4.00 P.M

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in **www.piramalfinance.com/e-Auction.html** or email us on **piramal.auction@piramal.com**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby noticed to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

Date: 13-05-2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

SIDDAGANGA URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
S.H.S.Building, B.H.Road, Tumakuru – 572 102, Tel: 0816 – 2277267
Fax: 0816 - 2277267, email: sucb95@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Under Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties]

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Siddaganga Urban Co –Operative Bank Ltd., B H Road, Tumakuru** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/ mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in their respective notices with further interest/cost etc within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
Details of demand notices such as borrower(s)/mortgagor(s)name & address, date of issue of notice, loan outstanding amount, present loan dues & description of properties are mentioned against each borrower hereunder.

1. **Name & Address of the borrower** : **Shri Sambhashivanna H. B.,**S/o Late Shri Basavarajappa, No.94, Halenahalli, Narasipura, Sompur Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District -562111
Demand Notice Date: 24.11.2022 **No.SUCB/SARF/LO-443**
Loan Outstanding amount as per Demand Notice: Rs.6,96,679/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Nine Only) as on 18.11.2022 and future interest at contractual rate from **19.11.2022** togetherwith incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc.
Possession Taken Date : 07.05.2024
Present Loan Outstanding : Rs.7,57,861/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty OneOnly) as on24.04.2024 and future interest at contractual rate from **25.04.2024** togetherwith incidental expenses thereon.
Description of the Immovable Property: All that price and parcel of property situated at Bengaluru Rural District, Nelamangala Taluk, Sompura Hobli, Halenahalli Village, Sy. No.9/2, measuring 0-3 ¼ Guntas bearing Katha No.203/117/2A, measuring 11 feet X 31 feet and Katha No.205/117/3, measuring 40 X 21 feet, vide Partition Deed dated 20.03.2003 and Registered as Document No.3508/2002-03 at SRO, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural District and common bounded as: East by: Space for A.B.C. Schedule People, West by : House of H.B. Ganadharaiah and Govt. Road, North by : Property of H. B. Veerabhadraiah, South by : High School Property.

2. **Name & Address of the Borrower/Mortgagors: (1)Shri Sampath R alias Sampanna K R,**S/o Shri Ramaiah **and (2) M/s Excellent Computer Education Institution, Prop: Shri Sampath alias Shri Sampanna K R,** No.29, Kasara Ghatta, Kambalu, Sompura (H), Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru District - 562111
Demand Notice Date: 24.11.2022 **No.SUCB/SARF/LO-358 & OD-18**
Loan Outstanding amount as per Demand Notice: Rs.13,91,962/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ninety One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two Only) as on 18.11.2022 and future interest at contractual rate from **19.11.2022** together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc.
Possession Taken Date : 07.05.2024
Present Loan Outstanding : Rs.16,24,929/- (RupeesSixteen Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Only) as on 24.04.2024 and future interest at contractual rate from **25.04.2024** togetherwith incidental expenses thereon.
Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of Residential vacant immovable property bearing Site No.103, Kaneshumari Khata No.181/103, & present Khata No.344/51/103 E Khata No.150300702000700275,Sy..40/1, converted by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District, vide Nos.ALN(N)SR 81, 82 and 83/2007-08 dated 29.12.2007, layout plan approved by the Nelamangala Planning Authority [NPA] in its Office No.NPA/LAO/93/2007-08 dated 28.01.2008 formed in 'SHIVAGANGE GARDENS', situated at Chandana Hosahalli Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet totally measuring 1500 Sq. feet standing in the name of Shri Sampath R alias Sampanna K R S/o Shri Ramaiah K S, vide Sale Deed dated 09.02.2012 and Registered as Document No.NMG-1-08799/2011-12 and CD No.NMGD203 dated 09.02.2012 at SRO, Nelamangala and bounded on: East by: Site No.102, West by: Site No.104,North by: 30 feet Road, South by: Site No.96.

The above mentioned borrowers/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount in full as mentioned in their respective demand notices, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein above against their name in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the above mentioned dates.
The Borrowers/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with these properties and any dealings with the said properties will be subject to the charges of the **Siddaganga Urban Co-Operative Bank Ltd., B. H. Road, Tumkur** for the present loan outstanding amount of the borrowers as mentioned against their name with further interest plus expenses thereon.
The borrowers/mortgagors' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. **Sd/-**
Place: Tumakuru Authorised Officer
Date : 07.05.2024 **Siddaganga Urban Co- Operative Bank Ltd., Tumakuru**

EDITORIAL

"Authoritarian leaders aim to implicate their own people in their crimes, which allows them to spread and dilute responsibility. If responsibility is spread across the population, so is guilt"

Shadi Hamid

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SC LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD WITH INTERIM BAIL TO KEJRIWAL

THE concept of interim bail is not defined in the Indian Penal Code. It is a legal innovation that has gained acceptance over time. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was on Friday granted interim bail by the Supreme Court till June 1, the day the last phase of the general elections will end. He was under arrest since March 30 for alleged money laundering linked to the Delhi excise policy scam. A two-judge bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna took a more "holistic and libertarian" view because of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, which he said was of "prodigious importance" in democracy. Rejecting the Enforcement Directorate's position that the grant of interim bail for canvassing by a non-candidate would amount to putting a premium on politicians as compared to ordinary citizens, the court said ignoring the peculiarities and circumstances in the case would be "iniquitous and wrong". The bench questioned the timing of Kejriwal's arrest closer to the elections and sought to level the playing field for the opposition. Though his failure to appear before the ED in spite of nine summons since October last year went against him, the bench reasoned that his heading a national party and not having any criminal antecedents could not be overlooked. All eyes would now be on how the bench finally disposes of Kejriwal's appeal. Also, jailed Jharkhand Mukti Morcha head and former CM Hemant Soren is expected to seek copycat relief.

Kejriwal hit the election road running on his first full day of release, posing the succession question within the BJP and alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi believed in the policy of one nation, one leader. It made campaigning spicier and forced Union home minister Amit Shah to assure the nation that Modi will complete his third term as prime minister in 2029. It is this ability to think on his feet and set the narrative that makes Kejriwal stand out from the Opposition crowd. His skills at wresting and retaining parliamentary seats in Delhi and elsewhere are now under test.

For those wondering about the neutrality of the Supreme Court after incumbent D Y Chandrachud retires in November this year, Justice Sanjiv Khanna's liberal verdict was like a gust of fresh air as he is in line to become the next Chief Justice of India. He is expected to serve in that capacity for six months from November 10, 2024 to May 13, 2025.

DON'T READ TOO MUCH INTO MARKET VOLATILITY

NERVOUSNESS in the equity markets ahead of election results is not uncommon. Yet, when the benchmark equity indices tumbled about 1.5% on Thursday, the speculation among Dalal Street players was that the crash could be due to the possible uncertainty over the results of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The Nifty Volatility Index (VIX) touched a 52-week high of 19.17 on Thursday, reflecting heightened investment risk going ahead. Most in the equity investment community were certain about a BJP win in the general elections to begin with. However, after the third phase of polls, there was a sense of unease among those who had predicted a BJP sweep. The general sense now is that the Narendra Modi-led BJP's projected win in the election, with the help of NDA partners, might not be as decisive as initially expected. Such an underwhelming mandate would make other NDA partners more assertive, giving them the tool to influence reforms and other important decisions that the government.

The equity markets and market participants prefer political stability and certainty. So, any scope for instability could lead to volatility in the markets. However, this is not a new phenomenon. In earlier elections as well, uncertainty over poll results had led to high volatility in equity markets. The Nifty VIX began to rear its head 35 days before the elections in 2019, and 22 days before the 2014 elections. The volatility index hit a level of 70 in March 2019 and remained above 30 throughout May. In 2014, the volatility Index had hit 38 levels in April when the elections had just begun. Therefore, to draw a political conclusion from the way equity markets are behaving could be a little far-fetched at the moment. Analysts claim equity market valuations are in the over-stretched zone, and it is looking for an excuse for correction. The uncertainty over poll results could be one of the excuses. Last week, the equity markets reacted negatively to the Central bank's diktat asking infrastructure financing companies to increase provisions. The market is also looking for clear trends to emerge for it to move decidedly in one particular direction – up or down. The trend could be either a clear poll mandate (or lack of it), or a geopolitical event. One, however, should not read too much from the volatility seen in equity markets as far as election results are concerned.

QUICK TAKE

CELEBRATE ALL STUDENTS

TAMIL Nadu is a rare state that bars schools from advertising about students who topped the class 10 and 12 exams. But as a recent report showed, the 2017 law is often observed in breach. The contention is not over fake claims of having trained toppers—there are other central and state laws to curb that menace. The effect of school and tuition centre ads on those who could not make the cut can be devastating. As a spate of student suicides have shown, excessive societal pressure to perform can drive young minds to extremes. Let's celebrate all students without seeding the doubt of failure among the vast majority.

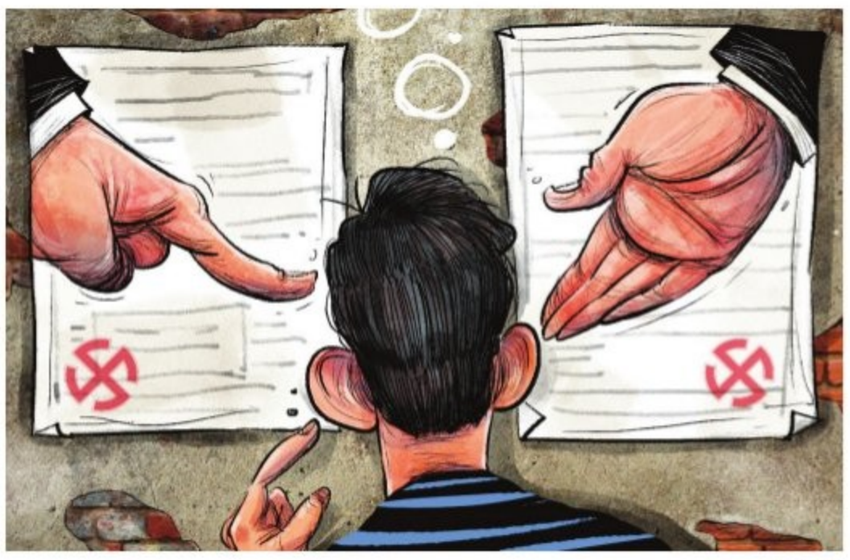
The Modi vs Modi contest is a tussle between two versions of the PM: the *maha neta* who wants to control everything versus the *pradhan sevak* who wants to deliver development to everyone

2024 GENERAL POLLS: DICTATOR VS DELIVERYMAN

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE



SOURAV ROY

WHAT do the results of the 2024 Indian general elections portend? I am not referring to who will win but by how many seats. Let us accept, for the time being, that it is Narendra Modi's ruling BJP, which has a clear lead after the first three phases of voting. But what is not equally certain is with what margin of victory and with how many seats. More and more, it seems that the dream of *Chaarsau Paar* or 400-plus will be difficult to manage. Even crossing the earlier watershed of 303 is now, according to many, uncertain.

Why? Because, as several analysts have observed, this is a much more of a waveless than wavy election. At least so far. Even the recently released working paper on "Share of Religious Minorities: A Cross-Country Analysis (1950-2015)" by the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), though timed to perfection right in the middle of the election season, many not actually have the Pulwama effect. Despite the rising shrillness of the anti-Muslim rhetoric of ruling party campaigners, including Modi himself.

"It's the economy, stupid"—former American president Bill Clinton's famous apothegm notwithstanding, the Muslim question will continue to be a focal point in Indian elections. It is not that Surjit Bhalla's latest book *How We Vote: The Factors That Influence Voters* (2024) gets it wrong. Yes. People do vote with their pocketbooks. In India, where many have neither wallets nor pockets, they do vote for the party or the leader who directly impacts and improves their daily lives.

But other facts and factors cannot simply be written or shrugged off. Nationalism, especially national security and Hindutva do matter. And Hindutva, let us face it, does appeal to the fears and insecurities of the majority, especially middle class Hindus who feel vulnerable and insulted in the only country in the world where they ought to be safest and most respected. Getting the largest possible share of Hindu votes has, therefore, been the BJP's SOP right from the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

But Indian voters, let alone easy to fool, are far from dumb. As every card sharper knows, you can't win with the same trick over and over again. In that sense, Hindus under threat or Muslims as the internal, eternal enemy may not work for the BJP as well this time around. Certainly, it is not drawing emotionally charged voters in droves to the hustings.

Who knows what the BJP's Chanakyas still have up their sleeves? But, at least thus far, the actual number of seats the BJP wins will determine what kind of BJP the people really prefer. BJP's margin of victory, in other words, will be an endorsement of either the idea of the One Party-One Leader or, to push this model to its logical extreme, One Leader-One Party-One Nation.

Indeed, lower numbers for the BJP will indicate that the people of India favour, to use the title of my friend Ganesh N Devy's book, not just a nation but a party "*Of Many Heroes*". This does not mean, as several surveys including an oft-cited one by Pew point out, that Indians do not like strong, even authoritative leaders. But there is, we must never forget, a difference between strong and despotic, authoritative and authoritarian. Indian history shows the latter type are called "Tanashahs" North of the Vindhyas, though the original Tana Shah, Abul Hasan (1672-1686) of Golconda, was from the Deccan. Ironically, this eighth and last of the Qutb Shahi kings was thought to be inclusive rather than tyrannical.

I don't know what the equivalent of the slogan, *Tanashahi nahi chalegi* or Down with Tyranny, is in the South. I came of age during Indira Gandhi's Emergency. That is when I first heard it, both in public rallies of leaders like Jaiprakash Narayan before he was jailed, and in much more hushed voices, in private conversations after June 25, 1975. Since then, I have heard the same slogan voiced in a variety of contexts, including student protests against university administrators who, let alone being oppressive martinets, actually have very little power. The issue is not how much power a ruler actually wields but how he is projected and perceived to exercise it.

Is this where the BJP narrative has gone wrong?

I am arguing that this is not so much a battle between the BJP and the Opposition or even a joust between two versions of the BJP itself. It is not so much a question of whether Indian voters like the BJP of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Kishan Advani versus that of Modi and Amit Shah. But even if the latter, is it the BJP of Modi-Shah plus Raj Nath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, S Jaishankar, and so on? Or a BJP in which Modi dwarfs everyone else, where every minister and ministry is reduced to lifeless puppets, and every regional leader is cut to size?

Do the rank-and-file BJP itself and the vast and powerful network of its parent body, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, endorse and support the ruling regime's near-obsession with controlling the narrative, brooking no dissent, and projecting only one leader over and above everyone and everything else? Where all glory accrues only to one individual and all blame is deflected from him? Also, jailing Opposition leaders, while welcoming the turncoats and the corrupt into the BJP? Or downgrading, if not disabling the Parliament? To the best of my knowledge and understanding, they do not favour personality cults. It is always nation first, above and beyond any individual, no matter how great he or she is.

The Modi vs Modi contest that I am referring to is thus the tussle between two versions of Modi himself. Without any prejudice and sans disrespect, let us call these two versions the Great Dictator vs the Delivery Man. The *maha neta* who wants to control everyone and everything versus the *pradhan sevak* who wants to deliver development to the last person in the nation. Who will win?

The verdict lies in the hands, or should I say fingertips, of each voter, when entirely alone in the polling, she or he determines the destiny of India.

(Views are personal)

(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE MOST BELOVED VILLAIN AMONG INDIAN EPICS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THE *Ramayana*, as I discovered when living in Southeast Asia, is very much the 'Epic of Asia'. Years ago, I gave an illustrated talk to that effect at the National Museum in Bangkok during the International Ramayana Festival. Back home, I, like many others, was intrigued by how Ravana is perceived differently in different regions. But there are nuances. For instance, Ravana is not 'worshipped' in Sri Lanka as some say, but he is certainly held in great esteem. There seems to be a statue of him carved on the wall of Koneswaram Temple, an important historical Shaiva temple at Trincomalee. There are two factors at play here concerning why he is so important.

One is that the anti-hero of the *Ramayana* had to be a big enough figure to be a worthy opponent of an avatar, namely Vishnu's seventh avatar, Sri Rama. So obviously, Ravana had to be a mighty warrior, a fabulously rich king, a gifted musician and poet, and a very attractive man. His 'ten heads' were symbolic of his multi-talented personality.

A sub-fact here is that while Rama was a mighty Kshatriya, Ravana was a Brahmin born of great rishis in North India, in Bisrakh, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. His father was Vaishrava Rishi and grandfather was Pulastya Rishi, one of the old order of Saptarishi or Seven Sages who constitute the Saptarishi Mandala, the constellation otherwise known as Ursa Major, the Big Bear or the Big Dipper.

For someone of such a learned lineage to kidnap another man's wife was wholly unworthy and a disgrace both to his ancestry and his own achievements. The old rule was the higher your rank, the greater your punishment, should you err. So, story-wise, the logic is perfectly clear: Ravana and his helpers deserved everything they got from the Prince of Ayodhya. Secondly, Ravana's track record with women was terrible. He forced himself on the apsara Rambha when she was on her way to meet her fiancé. This disturbing episode is still enacted in Kudiyattam and Kathakali.

Further, it is said Ravana accosted a saintly woman called Vedavati who would not tolerate his advances and burnt herself to death to escape. It is further said she cursed Ravana that if he ever assaulted a woman, his head would burst. Some even say Sita was Vedavati reborn as Ravana's daughter while others say he collected her ashes and had them planted far away from Lanka in Mithila. Those ashes turned into the baby King Janaka found during the royal ploughing ceremony, which is why he called her 'Sita' or furrow.

Like Ravana, his sister Surpanakha was an entitled and spoiled character who tried to kill Sita to get Sita's men for herself. 'Empathetic' modern explorations on Surpanakha can say what they like (because poking around the epics is the pastime of millennia) but the common people completely get the Ramayana's issues of 'right' and 'wrong' and who behaved with restraint and who did not. There is no getting away from the fact that the King of Lanka and his sister were not good people.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Ravana is not 'worshipped' in Sri Lanka, but he is certainly held in great esteem. There seems to be a statue of him carved on the wall of the Koneswaram Temple. Despite his crimes, one big reason why he was so loved was because he was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva

So why is Ravana still admired by some? It has a lot to do with his being an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. This is an inner story: we could, with perfect validity, call the *Ramayana* 'The Tale of Two Devotees' because, ironically, both Rama and Ravana adored Lord Shiva. He was their *aradhya* or *ishta devta*, their personal deity to whom they prayed and dedicated their deeds.

Ravana loved Shiva so much he tried to uproot Shiva's earthly home, Mount Kailash itself, to bear away to Lanka. When Lord Shiva punished him for his temerity, he sang his way to forgiveness with the incomparable *Shiva Tandava Stotram* or *Ravan Stuti* that many declare is their favourite composition on Shiva for its power and beauty. It is sung and danced to even today, and some jokingly refer to it as 'Ravan Rap'. It is set in the *Pancha Chamara chhand*, a metre employed by none less than Adi Shankara in his *Narmada Ashtakam*, a paean to the holy river. This took me some effort to discover. Lord Shiva was so charmed by Ravana's sincerity that he gifted him the magic sword Chandrahaas.

There is another, poignant story about Ravana, in Shaiva Siddhanta lore. It goes that when Sri Rama wished to perform a puja to Lord Shiva to ask for success in his conquest of Lanka, he could not find a priest nearby on the seashore where he was camped, on the coast of present-day Tamil Nadu. That place is now known as Rameswaram—the Place of 'Rama's *Ishvar*' or Rama's Lord, meaning Shiva.

Ravana got to know of this through his spies who could change form or become invisible. When it was gleefully reported that Rama was helpless because he could not start his campaign without worshipping Shiva, Ravana was not happy as expected. Instead, he was distraught that a puja to Shiva could not be performed. Being a learned priest himself and a magician, it took him no time to appear before Rama disguised as a priest and offer to conduct the puja. He conducted the puja for his own destruction; such was his love for Shiva.

Such tales have kept Ravana from being wholly vilified as he is in the Vaishnava North and earned him a soft spot in the South and Sri Lanka—that he was a worthy opponent for Rama; a person of great refinement, learning and prowess who committed that one blunder that led to his doom. So, the Tale of Two Devotees is really a cautionary tale where both the protagonist and antagonist have a number of virtues and qualities but the arrogant one without restraint loses.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

No question

Ref: *Modi to stay PM till 2029: Shah* (May 12). PM Narendra Modi is indeed a nonpareil leader for India and the world at large. Hence, there cannot be a second thought for the BJP regarding who should be the PM, if the party forms the government for the third term.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Party strategist

Home Minister Amit Shah provided an insight into the thought process of the party and its electoral strategy. His importance to the party as an astute strategist comes to the fore once again. Whether the results will further enhance his stature and increase his clout in the party will be very interesting to watch.

R Sriramprasad, email

Age limit?

Amit Shah confirmed Modi would continue to be PM until 2029 in response to remarks made by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal that Modi himself fixed 75 years as the upper age limit to remain PM. When it comes to conventions or rules that were enforced on senior BJP leaders like L K Advani and others, it seems there is no guarantee when it comes to Modi, who would turn 75 in 2025. When BJP can't follow their own unwritten rule on age, how can the PM expect voters to believe his guarantee?

N Nagarajan, Secunderabad

Distraction tactic

Ref: *Modi playing the game of 1 nation, 1 leader: Kejriwal* (May 12). Kejriwal's visit to the Hanuman temple in Connaught place after his release from Tihar jail was full of razzmatazz. As he could not play a victim card due to the court's instructions at the time of providing bail, he wisely opted to attack the Modi-Shah duo in an alternate way by bringing the retirement rule set by Modi himself to the limelight. Leaders accusing their political rivals upon being incarcerated in any scam is a tad annoying.

Vinayaka M, Bengaluru

One leader

Kejriwal made comments that Modi's vision is one nation, one leader. One leader for a nation is better than multiple leaders who pull the nation in different directions.

Durga Prasad Chirala, Vijayawada

Not appropriate

Ref: *Demonising is demeaning democracy* (May 12). We all know the role of Winston Churchill in the great Bengal famine during World War 2. Any comparison to a man who condemned an entire province to famine and starvation merely because the food grains were needed for his soldiers to fight the Nazis in Europe cannot be called the most appropriate.

Parvathisam R, Hyderabad

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury

Modi-Shah claim to have established peace in J&K but resort to large scale restrictions & detentions of opposition party workers in the name of law & order!

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi

Only through census on socio-economic basis can we know which class is in what condition. Which class is capable and who needs help

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath

Congress, SP and BSP divided Hindus in the name of caste, then divided in the name of region and language. Now they are eyeing on your property

'Normal China ties hinge on peace'

Jaishankar says situation at the Line of Actual Control needs to be addressed urgently

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FILE PHOTO

INDIA hopes to find a resolution of the remaining issues with China, said External Affairs Minister, Dr Jaishankar. "A return to normal bilateral ties hinges on peace and tranquility at the border and the remaining issues pertain to patrolling rights and partrolling abilities," he said in an interview.

"Today our relations with China are not normal because peace and tranquility in border areas has been disturbed. PM Modi in an interview (Newsweek) was expressing the hope that the Chinese side should realise that the present situation is not in their own interest," he said.

PM Modi has said that the border situation needs to be addressed urgently and that stable and peaceful ties between India and China are important not just for the two countries but also for the entire region and the world.

Meanwhile, Dr Jaishankar said diplomacy is a work of patience and India continues to discuss the issues with the Chinese side. "I would say that we need to resolve those issues if the relationship is to come back to normal," he said.

There has been a standoff between India and China since 2020 (after the Galwan incident) and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved even though both countries have disengaged from some friction points.

Dr Jaishankar said India needs to be confident and competitive as far as trade is concerned. "We need to be confident and competitive. I am clear that international politics and relations are competitive. I have a neighbour like China, I have to learn to compete," he said.

Bilateral trade between India and China has been on the ascendant. From 2015-22 the trade grew by 90.14% reaching $136.26 billion. "After all, if somebody is at your front door, in an unfriendly manner, you are not going to go out there and act as though everything is normal," he said.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC is the key to normalisation of overall ties.

Meanwhile, on the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) (keeping in view the situation in West Asia), Dr Jaishankar said that it's a good initiative but has to be adjusted a bit now. "It has definitely been a concern for us... and the kind of expectation we had when the agreement was signed in September, we have had to adjust it a bit," he said. The project will be delayed by a few years.

"So we have to wait for things to stabilise a bit. I think it is a matter of great concern and it's also a very complex issue," he added.

The IMEC was announced in September 2023 following a meeting in New Delhi between the leaders of India, the US, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Italy, France, Germany, and the European Commission on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.

DESPITE TENSION, INDIA-CHINA TRADE GROWS

Bilateral trade between India and China has been on the ascendant. From 2015-22 the trade grew by 90.14% reaching $136.26 billion. "After all, if somebody is at your front door, in an unfriendly manner, you are not going to go out there and act as though everything is normal," he said. India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC is the key to normalisation of overall ties.

Protests in PoK, posters demand merger with India

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

Screen grab from a video of the protest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir | X

A POLICE officer was killed and over 100 law enforcement agents were injured during protests in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). Residents have been protesting against inflation and lack of amenities. Posters were seen in Rawalkot which spoke about merger with India.

The Awami Action Committee (AAC) began protests on May 10 against inflation, which led to a crackdown by security forces. There was a shutter-down strike. Police resorted to tear gas shelling.

The strikes took place in Muzaffrabad, Sehansa, Mirpur, Rawalkot, Khuiratta, Tattapani and Hattian Bala.

The PoK government has imposed Section 144 shutting down educational institutions and offices. Videos and pictures circulating on social media show police using batons on protestors leaving 100 injured.

PoK activist Amjad Ayub Mirza alleged that Pakistani forces were shooting at unarmed civilians. Mirza called for intervention of the Indian government saying that the situation had gone out of control and that India should help them and people in Gilgit Baltistan gain independence.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif has urged his officials to negotiate with representatives of Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Muzafrabad who were also protesting.

"While debate, discussion and peaceful protests are the beauties of democracy, there should be no tolerance for taking the law in into one's own hands and damaging government property," Sharif said.

Reports said police arrested around 70 JAAC activists during raids in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur divisions, leading to clashes in Dadyal on Wednesday and Thursday, PTI news agency reported.

Following this, the organisation called for a massive strike in the capital on Friday after police arrested several of its leaders and activists in overnight raids in different parts of Muzaffarabad and Mirpur divisions. The committee had previously announced that people from across the state would stage a long march towards Muzaffarabad on May 11.

During a strike on Friday, violent clashes occurred between protesters and police in various parts of Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoK. To stop the protests, police resorted to teargas shelling, which affected people in homes and mosques after demonstrators pelted stones.

Top defence intelligence officer visits Tanzania to boost strategic interests

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

DIRECTOR General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lieutenant General **DS Rana** is on an official visit to the United Republic of Tanzania. The aim of this visit is to further reinforce the robust defence ties between the two nations and discuss opportunities for regional security collaboration.

The Ministry of Defence on Sunday, during his visit scheduled from May 13-15, said, "The DG DIA is scheduled to interact with senior military leadership of Tanzania, including the Chief of Defence Staff of Tanzania Peoples' Defence Force, General Jacob John Mkunda, and his counterpart Maj Gen MN Mkeremy, Chief of Defence Intelligence." While visiting the Tanzanian National Defence College, he will discuss India's Security Perspective with future leaders of the TPDF. "The meetings will be aimed to foster mutual understanding and strengthen bilateral defence cooperation."

Lt Gen DS Rana will also inaugurate the newly set up Defence Wing at the High Commission of India, Dar Es Salaam. As a gesture of goodwill towards expanding military cooperation, he will present the TPDF with Indian manufactured Bullet Proof Jackets. Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) was established as the nodal point for processing all military related intelligence, as part of the reforms onset after recommendations by the Kargil Committee to strengthen overall Indian defence and security.

At the Command and Staff College CSC Arusha the DG DIA will inaugurate the Library and lay the foundation stone for gymnasium, which are being facilitated through Government of India assistance. Tanzania's Command and Staff College in Duluti hosts an Indian Military Training Team (IMTT).

India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Tanzania, which is bolstered by the capacity building and avenues for defence cooperation. The visit shall strengthen elevated Strategic Partnership too.

Govt think-tank seeks psychological evaluation of cops to prevent suicides

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

Representative image

THE government-backed police think tank Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), in a recent report to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has recommended conducting psychometric evaluation of personnel both at the time of recruitment and mid-carrier to curb the tendency of suicide and fratricide within the forces, officials said.

Noting that this is the need of the hour, the BPR&D report also emphasized the significance of psychometric evaluation in addressing mental health issues faced by police personnel, as the absence of its assessment and critical analysis have so far proved fatal in loss of lives.

According to the officials, the report has been prepared by three ADG rank officers from BSF, Uttarakhand police and CISF, along with experts from Delhi University, the ITBP, and the SSB.

The report also acknowledged that while psychometric evaluation at the recruitment stage is crucial, it cannot be the sole method of reducing the prevalence of mental stress within police organisations.

"Experts unanimously suggest that psychometric evaluation in police forces is the need of the hour. Consequently, psychological problems or disorders can be tackled, and intervention programmes can be designed and implemented for the stakeholders," said a senior official, quoting the report.

Furthermore, the report also highlighted that a significant number of police personnel suffer from various psychiatric illnesses and thus, timely interventions are crucial to control the mental health consequences of trauma.

It further stressed the need for providing better and more accessible mental health services to police personnel, based on recent studies indicating the prevalence of mental health problems among them.

It has suggested that for comprehensive stress reduction strategies in organisations like CAPF, interventions at the workplace and re-assessment of daily regimentation are imperative to mitigate issues such as suicides and fratricides stemming from mental health challenges.

Personality evaluation during recruitment

In India, the armed forces have been using some system of psychometric evaluation for entry to their officer cadre for a while now as part of their extensive process through the Services Selection Board. But in police organisations, both at the Central and state levels, only personality evaluation is done at the time of recruitment by way of interview.

Further in the report, the committee has made a subdivision — one for psychometric evaluation for recruitment in CAPF, and the other for psychometric evaluation for recruitment in state police forces.

"The design of tests should include appropriate factors at each level of entry, such as constables (other ranks), sub-inspectors and officers. The task of designing the evaluation test methodology may be assigned to experts in this field from a reputed Institute,DIPR or university," the report suggested.

In India, the armed forces have been using some system of psychometric evaluation for entry to their officer cadre for a while now as part of their extensive process through the Services Selection Board. But in police organisations, both at the Central and state levels, only personality evaluation is done at the time of recruitment by way of interview.

Taking on China, ending Agniveer scheme among 10 Kejriwal guarantees

ANUP VERMA @ New Delhi

AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced his '10 guarantees' if the Opposition INDIA bloc is voted to power in the Lok Sabha elections.

Promising round-the-clock free electricity for the poor, establishment of world-class schools, hospitals, and Mohalla Clinics in every village, and a robust education and healthcare system for all, the AAP chief outlined transformative measures to uplift the nation. He said that these guarantees are a vision of a new India, which will change the lives of everyone including youth, women, rich, poor, farmers and businesspersons.

Vowing to reclaim land from China, eradicate corruption, and discontinue 'Agniveer' scheme, he emphasised job creation, farmer welfare, and tax reform.

Additionally, Kejriwal pledged full statehood status for Delhi, asserting that these guarantees embody the blueprint for a new India, transcending societal divisions to benefit all segments, while contrasting them with unfulfilled promises of the incumbent government.

"Our 10 guarantees are a vision of a new India. There are many such works in these which should have been done in the last 75 years, but they could not be done due to some reason. There are many such works in these, without which no nation can become powerful," the Delhi CM said.

"There are also such guarantees in it which will provide relief to the people of the country by getting rid of inflation and unemployment. However, these days there is also a discussion about 'Modi's guarantee' in the country. Therefore, now the people of the country have to decide whether they want to believe in Modi's guarantee or Kejriwal's," he said.

The AAP supremo said Modi had given many guarantees, but "none were fulfilled". "On the other hand, whenever elections came, Kejriwal had given a guarantee of free electricity in Delhi and Punjab," he said.

"We had said that we would provide electricity 24 hours, we did it. We had guaranteed that we would build great schools, we built great schools. We had guaranteed that we would build mohalla clinics, we built them. Whatever guarantees we had given, we fulfilled," he said.

ED summons J'khand minister in cash haul case

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

Officials of the Enforcement Directorate recover 'unaccounted' cash during searches at the premises of a domestic help in Ranchi | FILE PHOTO

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Alamgir Alam in the cash haul case, asking him to appear before its zonal office on May 14, officials said.

On Wednesday, ED sleuths had entered the rural development ministry office in Ranchi and searched the files following the cash haul of ₹35.23 crore from the residence of Jahangir Alam, the domestic help of Sanjiv Lal who was the personal secretary to minister Alamgir Alam, a senior Congress MLA. This is the first time that an ED team had entered a government ministry.

During the search, ED had recovered ₹1.75 lakh new currency notes and ₹28,000 old 500 notes from the official chamber of Alam's private secretary Sanjeev Lal, who is currently under ED custody.

Sanjeev Lal and Jahangir Alam were arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after the cash haul. Lal was later suspended following his arrest.

Now, ED heat is likely to reach to the top officials of Jharkhand's rural development department as the investigation agency in its remand note submitted to the court has alleged that "officials from top to bottom" were involved in a money laundering nexus.

"During the investigation, role of some IAS officers and politicians has emerged as highly suspicious," said an official of the investigation agency. It was also revealed that ₹35.23 crore commissions were generated in only three months time. It also came to light during the investigation that collection of commission went to influential people under the supervision of Sanjeev Lal. Money was collected in connivance with the syndicate of engineers even for managing tenders and collecting commission.

A fixed percentage was given to high-ranking people in the government, after collecting it from the contractors, officials said.

On February 22, 2023, ED had raided a total of 24 locations of rural development department Chief Engineer Virendra Ram. During the raid assets worth ₹100 crore were recovered. Jewellery worth ₹1.50 crore and cash amount of nearly ₹30 lakh were also recovered during the raid. Ram was later arrested. The raids were linked to alleged irregularities in the implementation of some schemes in the department.

In 2019, a huge amount of cash was recovered from one of Virendra Ram's subordinates. Later, the Enforcement Directorate took over the case under the PMLA Act.

Manipur steps up vigil along borders with Myanmar to check infiltration

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

ALARMED by the influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar and the various challenges it poses, the Manipur government is stepping up vigil in five districts which share a border with the country.

The government appointed a nodal officer in each of Ukhrul, Kamjong, Tengnoupal, Chandel and Churachandpur districts and entrusted them to monitor and check illegal migration.

In a May 11 order, the government said the nodal officers had been appointed as the influx of the illegal immigrants is on the rise.

"The nodal officers will identify new settlements and illegal migrants in the new settlements and other suspected locations, capture biometrics of the illegal migrants, upload biometric details in foreigners' identification portal of Ministry of Home Affairs and submit weekly reports to the government along with photographs and videos," the order said.

> **The illegal migrants will be deported by following the due process of law. The government will ensure that indigenous people are protected and that illegal migration is checked**
>
> N Biren Singh, Manipur CM

The district magistrates and the superintendents of police of the five districts have been asked to provide necessary assistance to nodal officers in terms of manpower and logistics.

The government said people displaced by the civil war were entering Manipur illegally. It said altogether 5,801 such Myanmar nationals were detected in Kamjong district. Of them, 15 died due to natural causes while 359 returned to Myanmar.

"The remaining 5,457 others are taking refuge in eight designated camps which are located far from the local habitation to prevent mixing with local people. They are provided with identity cards by the district administration and headcount is done every alternate day," a government statement said.

The statement said the people were keen on returning to Myanmar but could not do so due to bombing by the country's army in the past few days.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday urged the people of the state not to panic or spread rumours.

Stating that relief is being provided on humanitarian grounds, he said, "The illegal migrants will be deported by following the due process of law. The government will ensure that indigenous people are protected and that illegal migration is checked."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

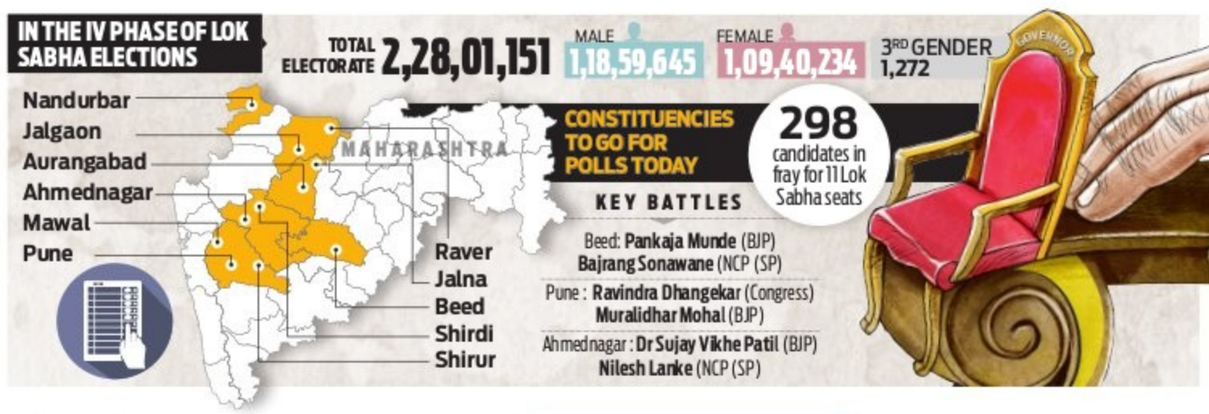
DECODE LS POLLS '24

DECIDE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	38	25	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	38	23	Panaji	33	27
Jaipur	37	25	Patna	42	27
Amritsar	33	19	Lucknow	39	23
Chennai	35	28	Port Blair	33	27
Kolkata	39	29	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	21	10	Chandigarh	35	21

■ 11 CONSTITUENCIES COVERING MARATHWADA REGION WILL TEST SAFFRON STRENGTH ■ 8 CONSTITUENCIES TO VOTE IN MALWA-NIMAR BELT

Maratha polarisation, agrarian crisis loom over Maha battle



Tri-angular contest

Aurangabad will have a tri-angular contest among AIMIM MP Imtiyaz Jalil, Uddhav Thackeray-led Chandrakant Khaire and Eknath Shinde-led Sandeep Bhumare who is banking on pro-Hindu ideology

Opposition is relying on anti-incumbency, raising farmers' and local issues and caste combination, while BJP is trying to consolidate Hindu votes

An analyst

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA

IN the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections, 11 constituencies will go to poll on Monday in Maharashtra where BJP-led Mahayuti has a major task to contain polarisation of Maratha community and counter agrarian issues to retain the seats.

There are 298 candidates in fray in Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Raver, Jalna, Aurangabad, Mawal, Pune, Shirur, Ahmednagar, Shirdi and Beed seats, where votes will be cast in 23, 284 polling booths. In this phase, BJP has seven MPs while Shiv Sena has two, and NCP (SP) and AIMIM one each.

In Beed, former union minister late Gopinath Munde's daughter Pankaja Munde is pitted against Sharad Pawar-led NCP candidate Bajrang Sonawane. Munde is banking on OBC communities and looking to win over Maratha community. Her opponent Sonawane, who lost 2019 Lok sabha election to her sister Pritam Munde, is relying on 3 Ms -- Marathas, Mahars and Muslims. He pins hopes on Maratha polarisation and farmers' anger to counter OBC polarisation.

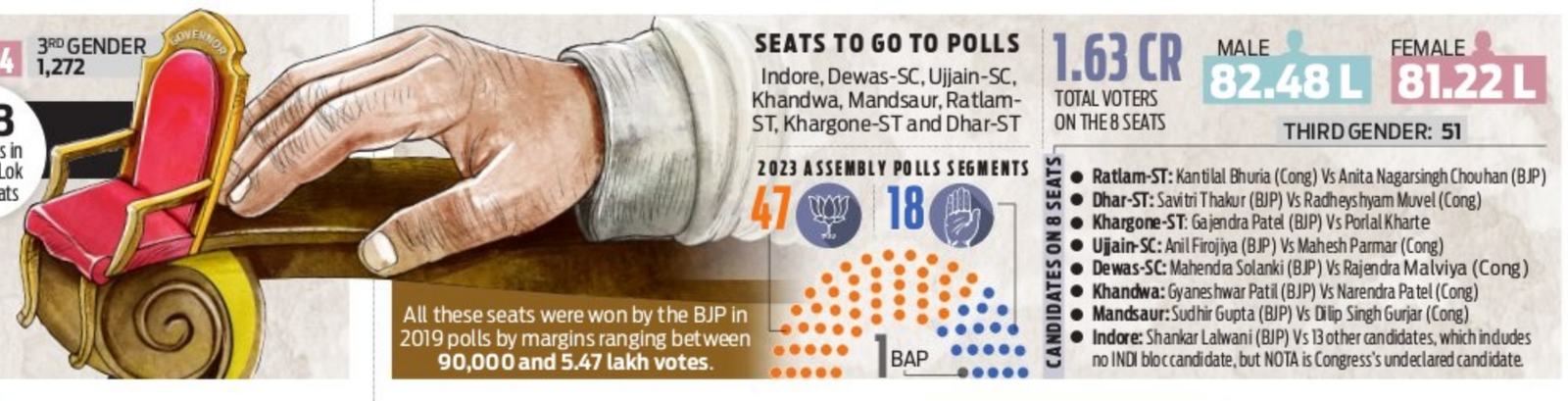
In Pune, BJP's Murlidhar Mohan is contesting against Congress MLA Ravindra Dhangekar. PM Narendra Modi and MNS chief Raj Thackeray campaigned for him while Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray sought votes for Dhangekar. Focusing on national issues, Mohar sought votes in Modi's name. Dhangekar raised local issues. In recent Kasaba Peth assembly bypoll, Dhangekar had emerged as a giant killer by defeating the BJP candidate.

BJP candidate Sujay Vikhe Patil is contesting against NCP (SP) candidate Nilesh Lanke in Ahmednagar. Patil is son of senior BJP leader and revenue minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil and his great grand-father had started co-operative-based sugar factory in Pravara Nagar in Ahmednagar. Lanke has been saying he will work for people, not for big business houses. He is capitalising on farmers' anger due to fall in onion prices and rise in fertilizer and chemical prices. Aurangabad is witnessing a tri-angular contest among AIMIM MP Imtiyaz Jalil, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Khaire and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's Sandeep Bhumare. Shinde's Sena is trying to polarise voters on Hindu-Muslim lines, AIMIM candidate is trying to consolidate his own vote bank and Khaire is raising Bhumare getting liquor licences in family members' names.

Raver seat has been a BJP bastion for the last 30 years and Leva Patil community candidate gets elected from here. BJP has fielded former BJP minister Eknath Khadse's daughter-in-law and MP Raksha Khadse who belongs to Leva Patil community while NCP (SP) has fieled Sriram Patil, a Maratha.

Apart from caste consolidations, banana farmers issues are much talked about in this election. Political observers say that farmers' issues will have key impact apart from Maratha quota leader Manoj Patil's stir. "Opposition is heavily relying on anti-incumbency, raising farmers' and local issues and caste combination, while BJP is trying to consolidate Hindu votes," an analyst said.

BJP faces tough test in its tribal stronghold of MP


SEATS TO GO TO POLLS
Indore, Dewas-SC, Ujjain-SC, Khandwa, Mandsur, Ratlam-ST, Khargone-ST and Dhar-ST
2023 ASSEMBLY POLLS SEGMENTS
47
18
1 BAP
All these seats were won by the BJP in 2019 polls by margins ranging between 90,000 and 5.47 lakh votes.
1.63 CR TOTAL VOTERS ON THE 8 SEATS
MALE 82.48 L
FEMALE 81.22 L
THIRD GENDER: 51
CANDIDATES ON 8 SEATS
Ratlam-ST: Kantilal Bhuria (Cong) Vs Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan (BJP)
Dhar-ST: Savitri Thakur (BJP) Vs Radheyshyam Muvel (Cong)
Khargone-ST: Gajendra Patel (BJP) Vs Porlal Kharte
Ujjain-SC: Anil Firojiya (BJP) Vs Mahesh Parmar (Cong)
Dewas-SC: Mahendra Solanki (BJP) Vs Rajendra Malviya (Cong)
Khandwa: Gyaneshwar Patil (BJP) Vs Narendra Patel (Cong)
Mandsaur: Sudhir Gupta (BJP) Vs Dilip Singh Gurjar (Cong)
Indore: Shankar Lalwani (BJP) Vs 13 other candidates, which includes no INDI bloc candidate, but NOTA is Congress's undeclared candidate.

All eyes on Indore

The most interesting seat among all the eight seats, however, could be Indore, where after the withdrawal of papers by the Congress candidate on April 29, the sitting BJP MP Shankar Lalwani will be taking on NOTA (the Congress's undeclared candidate). In 2019 polls, the seat was won by Lalwani, but with no Congress this time, it remains to be seen if voter turnout will rise or decline

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

MADHYA PRADESH

STAGE is all set for the fourth and final phase of Lok Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh, when eight seats of the Malwa-Nimar region (western and south-western MP) will vote on Monday. While the ruling BJP appears strong on most seats of the region – which since long has been considered a saffron stronghold – three tribal reserved seats, Ratlam-ST, Dhar-ST and Khargone-ST (all three neighbouring seats) may throw keen contests between the two prime contenders, ruling BJP and the opposition Congress.

Total 74 candidates, including 69 male and 5 female are in fray on the eight seats, which also include Indore (housing maximum 25.26 lakh voters, communally sensitive Khandwa, predominantly agrarian Mandsaur, MP CM Dr Mohan Yadav's home district seat Ujjain-SC and adjoining Dewas-SC seat).

Among these eight seats, BJP has fielded its sitting MPs on six seats (Indore, Mandsaur, Dewas-SC, Ujjain-SC, Khargone-ST and Khandwa), while 2014 winner Savitri Thakur is the party candidate from Dhar-ST seat and MP minister Nagarsingh Chouhan's district panchayat head wife Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan has been fielded against five times former winner and ex-union minister Kantilal Bhuria in Ratlam-ST seat.

According to Animesh Jain and Chandrabhan Singh Bhadauria, two senior journalists of the region, "The main contest between Cong and BJP will be in Ratlam-ST, Khargone-ST and Dhar-ST seats. If the Congress fights these three seats unitedly on Monday, a stunner for the BJP cannot be ruled out on June 4."

While Ratlam-ST seat is the most hotly contested seat in this phase, in the adjoining Dhar-ST seat, first time Congress candidate Radheyshyam Muvel (who is considered close to party's top leadership as well as state's leader of opposition Umang Singhar) is taking on 2014 winner Savitri Thakur, who had defeated Singhar ten years back from the same seat by over one lakh votes. According to informed sources in Dhar, if all prominent Congress leaders of Dhar, including ex-minister Surendra Singh Baghel and second-time MLA Dr Hiralal Alawa unitedly back the Congress candidate, the contest could be very close.

The BJP on the other hand is eyeing to cement its position on the seat through big leads from urban Dhar and Mhow assembly segments and is hoping for consolidation of Hindu votes in both these segments on the issue of ongoing High Court-ordered ASI survey at the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque in Dhar city.

The most interesting seat among all the eight seats, however, could be Indore (country's cleanest city and MP's biggest LS seat), where after the withdrawal of papers by Congress candidate on April 29, the sitting BJP MP Shankar Lalwani will be taking on NOTA (the Congress's undeclared candidate). In 2019 polls, Indore seat was won by Lalwani by a massive 5.47 lakh votes, but with no Congress or any other INDI bloc candidate this time, it remains to be seen if turnout will rise or decline sharply.

ELECTION2024

Govt not averse to floor test: Khattar

With opposition parties claiming that the BJP government in Haryana has lost majority, the ruling party dared them to parade their MLAs if they have the numbers. Former chief minister M L Khattar also indicated the BJP government was not averse to a floor test and that six JJP MLAs are with it. After the withdrawal of support by three Independent MLAs to the BJP government in Haryana, the Congress has demanded the dismissal of BJP government.

Poll seizures in MP cross ₹296 cr

Liquor, narcotics and precious metals form a major part of poll-related seizures worth more than ₹296 crore in Madhya Pradesh since the model code of conduct for Lok Sabha elections kicked in on March 16, a senior official has said. The seizures include illegal cash of ₹23.04 crore, 32 lakh litre liquor with a collective value of ₹46.89 crore, 2,492 kg gold and silver costing ₹15.15 crore, 30,227 kg narcotics.

BJP candidate, MP spar over ticket

BJP nominee for Gujarat's Amreli Lok Sabha seat, Bharat Sutariya, and incumbent MP Naran Kachhadia have got into a spat after the latter attributed poor voter turnout in the constituency to the party's selection of candidate there. Sutariya hit back at Kachhadia, accusing the MP of 'insulting' the BJP's top leadership and its parliamentary board by questioning his selection.

BIG FIGHT

Shah questions long absence of Gandhis, puts up 5 posers

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

WITH the ensuing Lok Sabha election nearly reaching half way, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Sunday, launched a frontal attack on Gandhis in their bastion of Rae Bareli by questioning their absence from the constituency after getting elected several times from there.

Addressing a poll rally in support of BJP candidate Dinesh Pratap Singh in Rae Bareli, Shah raised question on the track record of Gandhis in the constituency putting five posers to them seeking them to come clear on issues of national importance including abrogation of Art 370, law against Triple Talaq, Uniform Civil Code, two military actions by India against Pakistan in response to terror activities from across the border and rejection of the invite of consecration of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya.

Shah criticised the alleged lack of presence and development in the Rae Bareli despite getting elected for decades from there . "I was listening to Behen Priyanka ji's speech, she said that she had come to Rae Bareli to ask for votes from her family. It is true, the people of Rae Bareli have made the Gandhi-Nehru family win for years. I ask them how many times have Sonia Gandhi and her family come to Rae Bareli after being elected from here? More than three dozen major accidents happened in Rae Bareli, did the Gandhi family come?," he added.

The Home Minister accused former Rae Bareli MP Sonia Gandhi of "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on minorities" and the Gandhi family of being experts in lying. He alleged that the scion (Rahul Gandhi) used to reach out to the people of Rae Bareli for votes. The voting for constituency is scheduled in the fifth phase on May 20.

Cong is possessed by Aurangzeb's spirit: Yogi

Claiming that the Congress party's commitment to bring an inheritance tax reminded of the 'Jizya' tax imposed by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb during his reign, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said that it seemed that "the spirit of Aurangzeb has possessed Congress". He predicted a monumental victory for the BJP in the ensuing elections

'Cong built Rail Coach Factory, AIIMS, NIFT'

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra questioned BJP's track record in the constituency, highlighting the developmental projects initiated by the Congress. She asked listing initiatives undertaken in Rae Bareli by the party, including the establishment of the Rail Coach Factory, AIIMS, NIFT, and the development of five national highways.

Priyanka hits back, asks: What has BJP done for Rae Bareli?

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN a retort to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments in Rae Bareli on Sunday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra questioned BJP's track record in the constituency, highlighting the developmental projects initiated by the Congress party.

While interacting with media persons in Rae Bareli, Priyanka in a direct question to Shah asked the development work done by the BJP in Rae Bareli despite having a double engine government in the state.

"What has BJP done for Rae Bareli?" She asked listing several initiatives undertaken in Rae Bareli by the Congress party, including the establishment of the Rail Coach Factory, AIIMS, NIFT, and the development of five national highways. Responding to Shah's remarks about the absence of Gandhi family from the constituency after election victories, Priyanka Gandhi countered, "Does he keep a list of my movements?"

She challenged Shah to acknowledge the frequency of her visits to the constituency. She said, "I have come here (Rae Bareli) many times. Does he keep a list of my movements?... He should note down how many times I have come here." She accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of giving the country's "entire wealth" to "four or five rich people". she alleged the BJP has not done anything for the public in the last 10 years and was bringing up religion in its poll campaign to divert voters' attention.

"After his journey, my brother made it a point to make a manifesto that could solve inflation and unemployment which are the biggest problems for the public," Priyanka Gandhi said and recounted the Congress' promises made in its "Nyay Patra" for the polls.

'We respect farmers, but they should let us campaign in hinterland'

FORMER Union minister of state for external affairs, four-time MP from Patiala and a scion of the erstwhile royal family, the 79-year-old **Preneet Kaur** is contesting as a BJP candidate from Patiala for the first time. The wife of former Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh told **Harpreet Bajwa** in an interview that she always supported farmers but the final call will be with the government that comes to power and the farmers. **Excerpts**:

Farmers are opposing BJP candidates across Punjab. Why are they doing so?
The farmers have a right to oppose. However, it is also our right to be able to go anywhere; we should respect each other.

What is your stand on bringing a law on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops?
Look, I do not want to say anything on this, we support them (farmers), we have always supported them, but the final call will be with the government that comes to power after the elections. The farmers should get what they deserve.

You have been an MP from Patiala for 4 terms. Are you seeking votes in the name of PM Modi or the works you have done for the constituency?
I am seeking votes based on works done by me for my constituency and also in the name of PM Modi — both because I seek votes for the party and party manifesto and I also seek votes on the relationship that I have with the people of my constituency. I cannot list the work I have done -- it is 25 years of work. I have full faith in the bond that I have with the people.

What are the main issues in your constituency?
One of the main issues is the future of our youth and employment. I am happy that PM Modi is creating opportunities where people can stand on their own two feet -- from the cart-puller to rural women. For instance, the 'lakhpati didi' idea is helping generate work as government jobs are very few.

For the first time, the BJP is contesting solo in Punjab. What are the party's prospects?
I think the party will certainly do well to firm up its roots. We have a good platform with PM and the work done by him. We will perform very well.

Any possibility of a post-poll alliance with SAD as you and your husband Capt Amarinder Singh have been advocating?
I'm afraid I cannot say anything on that. It can be answered by the Akali Dal and BJP central leadership. Traditionally, there has been an alliance that keeps a 'bhaicharik' (brotherly) relationship between communities.

Punjab is witnessing a four-concerned contest. Will it benefit BJP?
You will have to wait until June 4, but we will do well.

Why did you join the BJP after decades of association with Congress?
Ideologically, BJP and Congress are different. As far as Capt Sahib, myself and my family are concerned, we have always worked for the people of Punjab. That is our ideology.

How do you rate the performance of AAP in Punjab?
Not very well; there's nothing on the ground. Corruption is rampant and all the tall promises are visible only on billboards and advertisements.

3 dead
And 12 wounded in a shooting at party in south Alabama

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • WI: Windy • HR: Heavy Rain • SN: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	32	17	SNY	Los Angeles	23	15	SNY
Colombo	32	25	LR	Melbourne	20	10	SNY
Dhaka	34	28	SNY	Moscow	10	4	LC
Dubai	39	30	SNY	New York	19	12	SNY
Houston	31	20	SNY	Singapore	32	28	SNY
Istanbul	15	8	LR	Toronto	20	12	LR
London	20	14	SNY	Washington	17	10	LC

Russian emergency services work at the scene of a partially collapsed block of flats in Belgorod. A 10-story apartment block collapsed in Belgorod, near the border, killing at least six people and injuring 20 others. Russia said the building collapsed following Ukrainian shelling. Ukraine has not commented on the incident. | AP

Ukrainians flee as Russia renews ground assault

A block in Belgorod collapses in shelling believed to be from Kyiv

VILCHA (UKRAINE)

THOUSANDS more civilians have fled Russia's renewed ground offensive in Ukraine's northeast that has targeted towns and villages with a barrage of artillery and mortar fire, officials said Sunday.

The intense battles have forced at least one Ukrainian unit to withdraw in the Kharkiv region, capitulating more land to Russian forces across less defended settlements in the so-called contested "gray zone" along the Russian border.

By Sunday afternoon, the town of Vovchansk, with a pre-war population of 17,000, emerged as a focal point in the battle. Volodymyr Tymoshko, the head of the Kharkiv regional police, said Russian forces were in the outskirts of the town and approaching from three directions. A Russian tank was spotted along a major road leading to the town, Tymoshko said, illustrating Moscow's confidence to deploy heavy weaponry.

An *Associated Press* team, positioned in a nearby village, saw plumes of smoke rising from the town as Russian forces hurled shells. Evacuation teams worked non-stop throughout the day to take residents, most of whom were elderly, out of harm's way.

At least 4,000 civilians have fled the Kharkiv region since Friday, when Moscow's forces launched the operation, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said in a social media statement. Heavy fighting raged Sunday along the northeast front line, where Russian forces attacked 27 settlements in the past 24 hours, he said.

Analysts say the Russian push is designed to exploit ammunition shortages before promised Western supplies can reach the front line.

Ukrainian soldiers said the Kremlin is using the usual Russian tactic by launching a disproportionate amount of fire and infantry assaults to exhaust their troops and firepower.

By intensifying battles in what was previously a static patch of the front line, Russian forces threaten to pin Ukrainian forces in the northeast, while carrying out intense battles farther south where Moscow is also gaining ground.

It comes after Russia stepped up attacks in March targeting energy infrastructure and settlements, which analysts predicted were a concerted effort to shape conditions for an offensive. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that halting Russia's offensive in the northeast was a priority.

Israel pushes deeper into Rafah, even as warnings continue

RAFAH

ISRAELI forces pushed deeper into Gaza's southern city of Rafah on Sunday and battled Hamas in parts of the devastated north that the military said it had cleared months ago but where militants have regrouped. Palestinians reported heavy Israeli bombardment overnight in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp and other areas in northern Gaza, which has suffered widespread devastation and been largely isolated by Israeli forces for months. UN officials say there is a "full-blown famine" there.

Residents said Israeli warplanes and artillery struck across the camp and the Zeitoun area east of Gaza City, where troops have battled militants for over a week. They have called on tens of thousands of people to relocate to nearby areas.

"It was a very difficult night," said Abdel-Kareem Radwan, a 48-year-old from Jabaliya. He said they could hear intense and constant bombing since midday Saturday. "This is madness." First responders with the Palestinian Civil Defense said they were unable to respond to calls for help.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a Memorial Day speech vowed to continue fighting until victory in memory of those killed in the war.

Netanyahu has rejected post-war plans proposed by the United States for the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to govern Gaza with support from Arab and Muslim countries. Warnings continued against the growing offensive in Rafah, considered the last refuge in Gaza for more than a million civilians as well as Hamas' last stronghold.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated opposition to a major military assault on Rafah, telling *CBS* that Israel would "be left holding the bag on an enduring insurgency" without an exit from Gaza and postwar governance plan. The expanding operation has drawn warnings from Egypt. *AP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY: 219

Pro-Palestinian protests pop up in US colleges

Small pro-Palestinian protests popped up sporadically on Saturday as colleges and universities from North Carolina to California held commencement ceremonies, including dozens of graduating students at Virginia Commonwealth University who walked out on an address by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Some 100 students and family members left during the governor's speech. *AP*

TOLL SO FAR
36,671

First pig kidney transplant patient in US dies two months after surgery

BOSTON

THE first recipient of a genetically modified pig kidney transplant has died nearly two months after he underwent the procedure, his family and the hospital that performed the surgery said on Saturday.

Richard "Rick" Slayman had the transplant at Massachusetts General Hospital in March at the age of 62. Surgeons said they believed the pig kidney would last for at least two years. The transplant team at Massachusetts General Hospital said in a statement they didn't have any indication that he died as a result of the transplant. The man was the first living person to have the procedure. Previously, pig kidneys had been temporarily transplanted into brain-dead donors. Two men received heart transplants from pigs, although both died within months.

Slayman had a kidney transplant at the hospital in 2018, but he had to go back on dialysis last year when it showed signs of failure. When dialysis complications arose requiring frequent procedures, his doctors suggested a pig kidney transplant. In a statement, Slayman's family thanked his doctors. "Their enormous efforts leading the xenotransplant gave our family seven more weeks with Rick, and our memories made during that time will remain in our minds and hearts," the statement said. *AP*

Mountaineer climbs Mount Everest for 29th time

KATHMANDU

NEPAL's legendary mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa made history on Sunday by breaking his record for the highest number of ascents of Mount Everest as he scaled the world's highest peak for the 29th time. The 54-year-old veteran climber reached the 8,849-metre peak at 7:25 am local time on Sunday, according to Rakesh Gurung, director at the Tourism Department in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. The expedition had 20 climbers. The climbing members were from countries including the USA, Canada and Kazakhstan besides thirteen climbers from Nepal. Kami had climbed Everest for the first time in 1994.

Last year, he made two successful attempts to scale Everest for the 27th and 28th times in the same season. This way, he became the person who climbed Everest for the highest number of times. Last year, Pasand Dawa Sherpa of Solukhumbu completed his 27th summit. *PTI*

Cop killed, over 100 injured in clashes during protest in Pok

ISLAMABAD

ONE police officer was killed and more than 100 people, mostly policemen, injured in violent clashes between security forces and protesters agitating against high prices of wheat flour and electricity in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, media reports said on Sunday.

The region witnessed clashes on Saturday between the police and activists of a rights movement amid a wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across the territory, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

Mirpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kamran Ali told *Dawn.com* that sub-inspector Adnan Qureshi succumbed to a gunshot wound in the chest in the town of Islamgarh, where he was deployed along with other police personnel to stop a rally for Muzaffarabad via Kotli and Poonch districts under the banner of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

The JAAC, which has traders at the forefront in most parts of the state, has been seeking the provision of electricity as per hydropower generation cost in the region, subsidised wheat flour and an end to the privileges of the elite class. The regional government called in the Rangers and a heavy contingent of policemen to stop the demonstrations. Mobile phone and internet services were suspended in different parts of the PoK on Sunday including Bhimber and Bagh Towns, *Geo News* reported. *PTI*

FOURTH INDIAN HELD IN CANADA FOR SUSPECTED ROLE IN NIJJAR KILLING

OTTAWA

A fourth Indian national has been arrested by Canadian authorities in connection with the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a week after police arrested three Indians linked with the high-profile case that has severely strained India's relations with Canada.

Amandeep Singh, 22, a resident of Brampton, Surrey, and Abbotsford areas of Canada, has been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Nijjar, 45, was killed outside Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18, 2023.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said that Singh was arrested on May 11 for his role in the killing of Nijjar. He was already in the custody of the Peel Regional Police for unrelated firearms charges, the release said.

"This arrest shows the nature of our ongoing investigation to hold responsible those that played a role in the homicide of Hardeep Singh Nijjar,' said Superintendent Mandeep Mooker, the Officer in Charge of IHIT.

Citing a source familiar with the case, the Global News reported that Singh is believed to be one of the two armed men who opened fire on Nijjar. The shooters were then seen running to a getaway car.

Amandeep Singh

Like his co-accused, Singh arrived in Canada on a temporary visa, but was allegedly involved in violent crime, the source said. The four hitmen are suspected of links to the Bishnoi gang, it added.

Singh was one of five men charged with firearms and drug offences following a traffic stop in Brampton by the Peel police Specialized Enforcement Bureau on November 3, 2023. During the arrests, police seized an FN 509 9mm pistol with a 24-round extended magazine, and two extended magazines with 24-round capacities containing 9mm ammunition, police said at the time. IHIT investigators on May 3 arrested three Indian nationals. *PTI*

Indian-origin man arrested for gold heist

OTTAWA

A 36-year-old Indian-origin man has been arrested in Canada in connection with a multimillion-dollar gold heist at Toronto's main airport, almost a month after the arrest of five others involved in the theft – the biggest in the country's history.

On May 6, 2024, investigators arrested and charged Archit Grover at the airport in Toronto as he flew in from India, according to the police. He is charged with theft over Canadian dollars 5,000 and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, police said in a statement.

On April 17, 2023, an air cargo container carrying more than 22 million Canadian dollars worth of gold bars and foreign currency was stolen from a secure storage facility using fake paperwork.

The gold and currency had arrived on an Air Canada flight from Zurich. *PTI*

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: 13-MYS 2023-24
Dated: 03-05-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
15T EOT Crane (Tender No. L9236461)	Rs. 54,70,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 20-05-2024
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/56/AAD/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BEFORE THE FAMILY COURT JUDGE AT TIRUNELVELI
I.D.O.P. No.304 / 2023
Petitioner : **Michael** S/o.Gnanaraj
Respondents: **Jamini** D/o.John and another
In the above case, as per the order of Family Judge's Court, Tirunelveli, the Petitioner's advocate Anees Gilda Mary hereby informs the 2nd Respondent Karthick, aged 35, working at Pradhana Manthri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra, 11th Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore - 560016.
You are hereby directed to appear before the Court on 21.05.2024 at 10.30 a.m. personally to answer the claim of the Petitioner failing which the case will be heard and decided in your absense in accordance with law.
(By Court Order)
Advocate
G.ANEES GILDA MARY
Tirunelveli 13.05.2024

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,12,10,527/- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakh Ten Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Seven only)** as on **08-05-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **09-05-2024** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Kumarakrupa Distributors, Kempegowda Buildings, Shivaji Nagar, Magadi Main Road, Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159. No.2) Mr. M.D. Kumara Gowda, S/o. Doreswamy, No.222, Kempegowda Buildings, Shivaji Nagar, Magadi Main Road, Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159. No.3) Mrs. Krupa Kumar, W/o. Kumara Gowda, No.222, Kempegowda Buildings, Shivaji Nagar, Magadi Main Road, Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159. No.4) M/s. Kumarakrupa Enterprises, Kempegowda Building, Magadi Main Road, Rayara Doddi (Shivaji Nagar), Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159. No.5) M/s. Kumarakrupa Tyres, Vivekananda Nagar, B.M. Road, Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562160. Also at, M/s. Kumarakrupa Tyres, No.1309/2034/A/1311/2034/C, Near Taj Paradise, Opp. BGS Hospital, Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159. No.6) Mr. K. Doreswamy, S/o. Late Kempaiah, Kempegowda Building, Magadi Main Road, Rayara Doddi (Shivaji Nagar), Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159. No.7) Mr. A. Prakash, S/o. M.V. Appaji Gowda, No.89, Rayara Doddi, Shivaji Nagar, Magadi Road, Ward No.27, Ramanagara, Bangalore - 562159.**
Note : That our **198-Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR : 501812080079978) dated **12-07-2021** requested by No.1 of you represented by No. 2 and 3 of you as Partners for which Nos.2 and 3 of you stood as Co-obligants and No.6 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 15,00,000/-** at a ROI of **15%** and the balance outstanding as on **08-05-2024** is **Rs.21,93,431/-.**
Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. M.D. Kumara Gowda, S/o. Doreswamy)
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Khatha No.84/34/3A, Property No.27-2-1-87B, measuring : East to West : 21 feet, North to South on East Side : 35 feet and West Side : 41 feet totally measuring 798 sq.feet situated at Ward No.27, Jeegenahalli, BM Road, Ramanagara. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : BM Road, North by : Remaining Property in same number belonging to Gurunath, South by : Remaining Property in same number.
Reserve Price : Rs.1,10,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh only)
RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
30-05-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru - Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No. 9379511195. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bid or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 10-05-2024 **Authorised Officer**
Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

Indian Overseas Bank | MALLESWARAM BRANCH: #162, 10th Main Road, 15th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560055
Tel: 080-22950324/ 325/ 326/ 327, E-Mail: iob0323@iob.in
POSSESSION NOTICE Under (Rule 8 (1)) of SARFAESI ACT.2002)
Whereas, The Undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Indian Overseas Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002 issued a **demand notice dated 03.04.2021** calling upon the Borrower/ Mortgagor/ Guarantors **1) M/s KNR Marketing (Borrower),** #C-1, Block C, "Rathod Land Mark", No.25/3, 1st Stage, Industrial Suburb, Yeswanthpur, Bangalore-560022. **2) Mr. Kantharaju B P (Guarantor & Mortgagor), S/o. Mr. Puttaiah,** No.9/11, 6th Main Road, Srikanteshwarnagar, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096. **3) Mrs. Latha R (Guarantor), W/o. Mr. Kantharaju B P,** No.9/11, 6th Main Road, Srikanteshwarnagar, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.56,01,249.78 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs One Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Nine and Paise Seventy Eight Only)** as on **30.04.2024** with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.
1) The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **08 day of May of the year 2024.**
2) The borrower in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Overseas Bank,** for an amount **Rs.56,01,249.78 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs One Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Nine and Paise Seventy Eight Only)** as on **30.04.2024** with interest thereon at contractual rates and rests as agreed charges etc, from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payments less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is **Rs.56,01,249.78 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs One Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Nine and Paise Seventy Eight Only)** payable with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc. till date of payment.
3) The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of Sub-Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets. Sub -Clause (8) of this clause provides
"Where the amount of dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him is tendered to the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets,-
(i) the secured assets shall not be transferred by way of lease assignment or sale by the secured creditor ; and
(ii) in case, any step has been taken by the secured creditor for transfer by way of lease or assignment or sale of the assets before tendering of such amount under this sub-section ,no further step shall be taken by such secured creditor for transfer by way of lease or assignment or sale of such secured assets".
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Nature of Security: Mortgage
Particulars of Securities: Detailed as under
All that part parcel of the property bearing New No.27, Old No.1870, 7th "A" Main Road, 'E' Block, Rajajinagar II Stage, Subramanya Nagar, Bangalore-560010, Ward No.09, Site measuring East to West 58 ft and North to South 30 ft, Site totally measuring 1740 sq.ft, and **Bounded on the: West by:** Road, **North by:** Property bearing No.1871, **East by:** Property bearing No.1990, **South by:** Property bearing No.1869.
standing in the name of **Mr. Kantharaju B P**
Date: 08.05.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Indian Overseas Bank**

Indian Overseas Bank | MALLESWARAM BRANCH: #162, 10th Main Road, 15th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560055
Tel: 080-22950324/ 325/ 326/ 327, E-Mail: iob0323@iob.in
POSSESSION NOTICE Under (Rule 8 (1)) of SARFAESI ACT.2002)
Whereas, The Undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Indian Overseas Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **demand notice dated 03.04.2021** calling upon the Borrower/ Mortgagor/ Guarantors **1) H. V. Nagaraj (Borrower), S/o. Veeranna Gowda,** No.3, 11th Cross, 11th Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003. Ph: 9611432477. **2) Mr. Ramanna (Guarantor), S/o. Veeranna,** No.3678, 6th Cross, 2nd Stage, B-Block, Subramanayanagar, Gayathrinagar, Bangalore-560021. **3) Mr. Prasanna (Guarantor), S/o. Ramanna,** No.3678, 6th Cross, 2nd Stage, B-Block, Subramanayanagar, Gayathrinagar, Bangalore-560021. **4) Mr. Yuvaraj (Guarantor), S/o. Ramanna,** No.3678, 6th Cross, 2nd Stage, B-Block, Subramanayanagar, Gayathrinagar, Bangalore-560021, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.39,13,647.31 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Seven and Paise Thirty One Only)** as on **30.04.2024** with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.
1) The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **08 day of May of the year 2024.**
2) The borrower in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Overseas Bank,** for an amount **Rs.39,13,647.31 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Seven and Paise Thirty One Only)** as on **30.04.2024** with interest thereon at contractual rates and rests as agreed charges etc, from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payments less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is **Rs.39,13,647.31 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Seven and Paise Thirty One Only)** payable with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc. till date of payment.
3) The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of Sub-Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets. Sub -Clause (8) of this clause provides
"Where the amount of dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him is tendered to the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets,-
(i) the secured assets shall not be transferred by way of lease assignment or sale by the secured creditor ; and
(ii) in case, any step has been taken by the secured creditor for transfer by way of lease or assignment or sale of the assets before tendering of such amount under this sub-section ,no further step shall be taken by such secured creditor for transfer by way of lease or assignment or sale of such secured assets".
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Nature of Security: Mortgage
Particulars of Securities: Detailed as under:
All the piece and parcel of the property bearing BDA Site No.3639/B, Later Municipal No.3639/B/31/1, presently as per BBMP Katha No.31/1 (Old No.3639/B), situated at Rajajinagar 2nd Stage Layout, 'B' Block, Subramanyapuram, 4th Cross Road, Bangalore, PID No.9-49-31/1, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.66, Bangalore, measuring East to West 33 feet, and North to South 47.6 feet, totally measuring 1567.5 Sq.ft., together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface, along with RCC Roofed residential house consisting of 12 square in the Cellar, 12 Squares on the Ground Floor, 12 squares on the First Floor and 10 Squares of Second Floor. The construction is of Granite Flooring, Teak Wood Doors and Windows along with all civic amenities and **Bounded on: West by:** Site No.3638/A, **North by:** Road, **East by:** Site No.3639, **South by:** Site No.3616.
standing in the name of **Mr. Ramanna, R Prasanna and R Yuvaraj**
Date: 08.05.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Indian Overseas Bank**

₹396 CR Gold ETF saw a net outflow in April, the first withdrawal after Mar 2023.

What should stock market investors do in the election season?

Experts say it is important to resist the fear of missing out (FOMO) and to avoid making short-term investments, instead, investors should focus on the long term

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE sharp correction in India's equity market last week has left investors in a turmoil state. Following the total market capitalisation of all BSE listed firms falling more than ₹ 7.5 lakh crore in the single session of Thursday, investors are now worried as to whether they should remain invested in the market or exit until this period of high volatility stabilises once the crucial general election results are out in the first week of June.

India's equity market benchmarks - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty- crashed about 2% each last week as the street now fears that a third term for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government may not be as decisive as initially expected. This concern is exaggerated by a lower voter turnout and the domestic market's premium valuation led to high outflow of funds by foreign institutional investors.

Anirudh Garg, Partner and Fund Manager at Invasset said that the expectations regarding the 2024 general elections result are inherently ambiguous, as they can vary significantly from person to person and from region to region. "However, from a broader market perspective, I believe there would be a positive reception if a stable BJP government were to continue at the centre," he added.

"I would advise market participants to trade cautiously and consider using systematic investment plans (SIPs) to buy on dips. If the Nifty drops below 20,000, it might be a good opportunity to make a lump sum investment. It's important to resist the fear of missing out (FOMO) and to avoid making short-term investments. Instead, focus on the long term, keeping a horizon of at least two to three years. Invest in sectors that are experiencing the most significant relative changes. In these volatile markets, it's wise to avoid speculative trading altogether, particularly staying clear of futures and options," Garg told TNIE.

Anil Rego, Founder and Fund Manager at Right Horizons said that he is constructive on the domestic macro and believes the capex-driven expansion would likely sustain the growth cycle.

He added that they are less concerned about risks over the domestic macro front and believe shocks are skewed towards exogenous factors. "We recommend investors to hold to quality names that are available at reasonable valuation since we expect this segment will do better supported by healthy sustainable earnings growth. We anticipate political continuity in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections '24 that is likely to bolster the overall economic momentum and have a positive impact on the market due to continued instrumental policies in key themes," said Rego. Many market experts too are of the view that this correction gives a good window to accumulate quality stocks, particularly in the banking and FMCG pack. However, they have advised investors to avoid micro and small size stocks which aren't able to justify their high valuation as they may see a greater correction in the times of volatility.

The markets factored in most of the positives from December 2023, so a modest correction seems warranted

Naveen Kulkarni, Chief Investment Officer, Axis Securities PMS

Market correction (5 sessions)

SENSEX 1.84%

NIFTY 2.32%

NIFTY MIDCAP 2.5%

NIFTY SMALLCAP 5%

"Leading private sector banking names, automobile majors and the leading telecom companies are fundamentally strong and fairly valued," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Global cues

One of the key characteristics of the recent dip is how the market was almost entirely dominated by domestic factors (largely the general elections) and there is little sway of global cues which otherwise has a big influence at the moment. Contrary to a crash in the Indian market, US Dow Jones Industrial Average notched a seven-day winning streak on Thursday — its longest since nine days straight of gains in December as new jobless claims data rekindled hope for Federal Reserve rate cuts later this year. "The market's decline can be largely attributed to the prevailing uncertainty surrounding the general elections, particularly following the third phase of voting, which witnessed a decrease in voter turnout compared to 2019," said Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior VP, of Master Capital Services.

According to Nanda, the outlook for the market this coming week will be guided by the major global and domestic economic data, India's WPI inflation data and WPI manufacturing data, US PPI data, Core CPI data, Initial Jobless Claims, Core Retail Sales data, Japan's GDP data, India Q4 company results and speech by Fed Chairman Jerome Powell. Besides the 2% fall in benchmarks, Nifty small-cap and midcap index witnessed a fall of around 5% and 2.75%, respectively. All sectoral indices lost (except Auto and FMCG) on a week-on week basis. Naveen Kulkarni, Chief Investment Officer, Axis Securities PMS, believes that the market correction is a mix of multiple factors and not just driven by political updates.

"At this juncture, we believe that the markets continue to anticipate a stable political regime will ensue...The markets factored in most of the positives from December 2023, so a modest correction seems warranted. This correction is healthy and not primarily driven by pre-election result jitters. Rather, it has more to do with the fundamentals and return expectations for FY25 or 2024, which are getting tapered and becoming more realistic than political jitters," said Kulkarni.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

HOW TO CONVINCE YOURSELF OF INVESTMENT RISKS

WHEN share prices rally, nobody complains. However, when they fall, panic sets in. Following a sharp sell-off, the benchmark indices like the Sensex and the Nifty are back to the same level as at the start of the year. Your writer received a few messages and calls from friends and relatives about their investment portfolio in light of a sharp correction recently.

There are those wondering if it is the right time to buy more. Then, some want to know if it is the right time to pare down exposure to equity and buy fixed-income assets. It is lovely to talk with someone who can discuss the present market situation. For specific advice, you must seek professional help. These are people registered with market regulators, and they have to guide you in making an appropriate asset allocation that aligns with your goals.

When discussing things to do in the market, you are trying to justify the risk you are taking with your money. Somewhere, you would want to know that your money is safe. As this column has discussed, investments are fraught with risks. Knowledge is your only weapon to deal with the challenge. Howard Mark is an American investor and a billionaire. He has written several books about investments. Marks regularly writes letters to his clients. Recently, he put out a note titled 'The indispensability of risk'. He argues that you can avoid losses by playing safe, underscoring that there is no reward if there is no risk. Not taking risks means accepting that you are happy with a minimal outcome. "You should not expect to make money without bearing risk. But you should not expect to make money just because you are taking the risk," Marks said in that recent note.

It is essential to understand the nuances of these thoughts. Equity assets are the riskiest, while fixed income or bonds carry moderate risk. Your investment portfolio must be a combination of these diverse asset classes. You should weigh towards equity assets if you are looking for a high risk and a high reward.

You should do the opposite if you agree with lower return and risk. In the case of the legendary Warren Buffett, he is a buy-and-hold investor in top companies. He invests in fundamentally strong businesses, generating free cash and is likely to do so in the years ahead. Not everything he invests turns into a good investment. In his letters to shareholders over the years, Buffett has highlighted mistakes made, too. But the idea is to own a significantly more significant number of good investments than bad. There would be some that may not perform the way you expected. You must ensure that your suitable investments can cover the poor performance of the dud ones.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

If you are a direct investor in equity markets, you must create a portfolio of fundamentally strong companies based on your risk appetite. Stockbrokers that offer research facilities can help you identify the right stocks and align your future investments around a core portfolio.

If you are a mutual fund investor, the panic in times of volatility is unnecessary. You are already diversified enough as your risk is spread through a portfolio of companies. Many of you have been exposed to several schemes that have resulted in over-diversification. If you are familiar with the world of finance, you should focus on simplifying your investments to an optimal level of diversification. A professional financial advisor will be able to guide you towards that.

There is a consensus around the world about India's growth prospects. International institutions have upgraded their guidance for India's growth in the next few years. That is irrespective of the general election outcome.

Share prices in India react to short-term events just like anywhere else. Eventually, they follow the profits businesses make over the next few years. You must stay put for that long to benefit from the long-term prospects (at least 10-15 years).

MONEY-WISE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

(Views expressed here are personal)

MULTIPLY YOUR WEALTH WITH SIP TOP-UPS

THE benefits of a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) in Mutual Funds are widely known by now. But not many know of a SIP Top-Up facility wherein an investor who has enrolled for SIP has an option to increase the amount of their SIP instalment by a fixed amount or percentage at predefined intervals. This increase can be linked to future income and growth. Investors can specify the upper limit to cap the top-up either in terms of the amount or the month and year. Topping-up the SIP will stop when the defined cap is reached.

A top-up facility is an efficient way to keep your savings growing in line with your income. Using a top-up facility, an investor can increase their monthly contribution in an ongoing SIP. While most mutual fund houses refer to it as Top-Up, some others call it SIP Booster or SIP Step-Up facility. Most prominent fund houses offer this facility to investors.

Option 1 : Only SIP

SIP ₹10k p.m.

Corpus after 15 years @ 12% CAGR: ₹47.5 lakh

Option 2 : SIP + TOP-UP SIP ₹10k p.m.

Top Up ₹2k p.m.(further increased yearly too by additional ₹2k p.m.)

Corpus after 15 years @ 12% CAGR: ₹95 lakh

Some of the key advantages of a top-up SIP include its ability to help your savings keep pace with the rise in inflation. Although this sounds innocuous, it plays a vital role in ensuring one is not left with idle funds that do not work towards beating the inflation rate.

Then, top-ups provide operational convenience as there is no need to submit a fresh ECS Bank Debit Mandate in order to top-up existing SIPs. At the same time, one should note here that once they opt for the SIP top-up facility no modification can be made to the same. The investor will have to cancel the current SIP and enrol for a new one.

SIP top-ups can help investors reach their financial goals faster as they incrementally accumulate towards the goal target amount sooner than the originally projected time frame. Again, most salaried individuals expect a yearly salary hike and may get bonuses on an annual basis. A SIP top-up option increases the investment of one's savings, alongside salary growth.

Check the above table about the numerical impact that a SIP top-up could potentially have on a performing mutual fund scheme over a longer time frame. The results are worth noting.

The numbers speak for themselves. The impact of a marginal top-up in the above illustration resulted in doubling of corpus.

Of course, the key lies in selecting a mutual fund scheme that will perform over a 15-year time frame. There is no dearth of such schemes in the Indian mutual fund universe but to select them, one would do well to seek professional advice.

We will become a 10 GW renewable player in the industry: SAEL's CIO

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

WASTE-to-energy maker SAEL is exploring new ventures such as solar with battery storage and pumped hydro storage to further solidify its position in the renewable energy sector.

In an interview with TNIE, Chief Investment Officer (CIO) Varun Gupta discussed the company's plans to invest up to ₹ 35,000 crore over the next two-and- a-half years.

SAEL recently raised $1 billion for renewable energy projects. Apart from solar and waste to energy, in the future, the company may foray into solar with storage, pumped hydro, etc.

Currently, the company has four gigawatts of utility projects and 2.3 gigawatts of module manufacturing capacity. "To achieve completion of our four-gigawatt capacity, our capital expenditure (CapEx) would be roughly around ₹18,000 to ₹ 19,000 crore, which will be spent by June 2025. So, in the next 15 months, we would have incurred a CapEx of close to ₹18,000 crore. Meanwhile, we continue to build, targeting a capacity of about another 3000 megawatts of utility projects in the next 12 to 15 months. This will bring us close to seven gigawatts of projects across solar and investor energy, requiring a combined CapEx between ₹30k crore and ₹35k crore, to be spent by around December 2026," Gupta said.

"Adding on 2.5 gigawatts of module manufacturing, we will become a 10 gigawatt renewable player in the industry, positioning us among the top four in the industry," he added.

On the company's plans to get into battery storage, he said, "We are right now going to get into solar with storage. We are evaluating pump storage. Then you will also get into it eventually."

Auditor of Zomato's Blink Commerce quits

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ZOMATO on Sunday said the auditor of its subsidiaries Zomato Hyperpure and Blink Commerce has resigned with immediate effect, and the food tech company's auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells will be appointed in its place.

Batliboi & Associates, who was appointed as statutory auditors of the two wholly-owned subsidiaries for five years beginning April 1, 2023, till the conclusion of the 13th AGM, resigned w.e.f. May 12, 2024, Zomato said in a regulatory filing. "Further to our various discussions and email dated May 8, 2024, from the Global Controller Finance, Zomato Limited, we understand that the holding company's management wants to align the statutory auditor of the company with the auditors of the holding company responsible for the audit of consol accounts to avoid some duplication and bring some efficiencies in the audit process at group level," Batliboi & Associates stated.

Bank lending to NBFCs halves to ₹15.5 L crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ MUMBAI

AFTER the November 2023 Reserve Bank direction mandating banks to increase their risk-weighted capital by 25 percentage points for their exposure to non-bank lenders, banks' credit growth exposure rate to these shadow banks almost halved to 15.3% as more and more NBFCs are depending on mutual funds to raise debt, which on an annualised basis rose to 14.76% in March 2024 from 12% a year ago.

Even as better rated NBFCs are moving away from banks for funds to MFs, the credit exposure of banks to NBFCs rose 15.3% to ₹15.5 lakh crore in March 2024, which is only half of the growth rate reported in March 2023 when it was 25-30%, Care Ratings said in a weekend note. The average expansion in banks' advances to NBFCs has also come down to around 19% in March 2024, from 23-25% average growth in the previous 12 months.

Additionally, the growth rate of advances to NBFCs has also been below the overall bank credit growth since December 2023 primarily due to the RBI increasing risk weights and elevated capital market borrowings. Another reason is the RBI increasing the risk weights and rising capital market borrowings, the agency said.

Due to these reasons, the proportion of NBFCs' exposure in relation to aggregate credit has also inched down from 9.7% in March 2023 to 9.4% in March 2024.

On the other hand, MFs' debt exposure to NBFCs, including commercial papers (CPs) and corporate debt, reached ₹1.90 lakh crore in March 2024, an increase of 29.9% on-year and 2.2% sequentially, with CPs remaining above the ₹1 lakh crore-mark for the fourth consecutive month.

However, lower-rated NBFCs are expected to seek bank funds than mutual funds for debt raising, the report said.

The figures do not include liquidity made available to NBFCs by banks via the securitisation route which include direct assignments and pass-through certificates and also the treasury investments made by banks in NBFCs debt issues.

Liquidity availed of by NBFCs including housing finance companies through the securitisation route was around ₹1.94 lakh crore for the 12 months ending March 2024.

But the numbers are still much higher compared February 2018 (NBFCs' trouble began with the DHFL blowout in late 2017 followed by the bankruptcy of ILFS in October 2018) numbers, as in absolute terms lending to NBFCs has jumped 4x even MFs' exposure has come down by 17.9% over these six years due to their risk aversion.

Also, interestingly, MFs' exposure to NBFCs as a share of debt assets under management has come down from nearly 20% in the latter part of 2018 to around 12% by March 2024.

On the other hand, the share of banks' advances to NBFCs as a share of aggregate advances doubled from around 4.5% in February 2018 to 9.4% in March 2024.

The credit extended by banks to NBFCs has exhibited a consistent upward trend for close to six years and continued its acceleration along with the phased reopening of economies after the Covid pandemic. This trend can be primarily ascribed to the expansion of their debt assets.

Meanwhile, MF's investment in NBFC debt issues rose 27.9% Year-on-year to ₹0.86 lakh crore in March 2024 and the share of total corporate debt to NBFCs rose to 4.7% during this period from 4.4%.

Martin wins thrilling French MotoGP

LE MANS: Jorge Martin landed his "perfect weekend" and extended his lead in the championship with a thrilling victory in the French MotoGP at Le Mans on Sunday. The Spaniard, who won Saturday's sprint, battled the entire race with rival Francesco Bagnaia before Marc Marquez, starting from 13th spot on the grid, arrived late to steal second place.

Super Kings rise above tide at Chepauk

Battling multiple issues at a time, Gaikwad-led side rallies to come up with inspired show in their last home game

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

CHENNAI Super Kings had plenty stacked against them before the fixture against Rajasthan Royals on a Sunday afternoon. The stakes were way too high. After a topsy-turvy season, where they had won six matches and lost as many, their final league game at their home ground, "Fortress Chepauk," was a must-win. They needed the two points to keep their hopes of making it to the playoffs for the second time in a row and stay alive. There were no other options.

If the pressure of a must-win game is not enough, the Super Kings had the shortest turnaround after their away match against Gujarat Titans. The team landed in Chennai on Saturday evening and had no opportunity to practice. On top of that, this was their first afternoon game of the season. With most of their first-choice players ruled out either due to national duties or injury concerns, captain Ruturaj Gaikwad had to rally his troops. If that wasn't enough, Rajasthan's decision to bat first meant, Chennai had to field in the scorching heat. The task was not going to be easy.

However, not having too much time after the hammering they received in Ahmedabad was the best thing that could have happened to Chennai. CSK batting coach Michael Hussey would admit as much after Sunday's tie. They did not have the time to sulk or worry about all that is at stake. They had to turn up with a positive frame of mind and put out their best effort. And that is exactly what Chennai did. After an uneventful powerplay where neither side could make inroads, Gaikwad introduced Simarjeet Singh, who went for 60 runs in Ahmedabad. With his second ball of the match, the pacer broke the opening partnership between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler, dismissing the former. In his next over, the pacer ended Buttler's struggling stay for 21. Other than Riyan Parag, none of the Rajasthan batters could get going against Chennai spinners, led by Ravindra Jadeja who gave away only 24 runs in four overs.

CSK players acknowledge the home fans after the match on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

With a decent target of 142 on the slow Chennai pitch, chasing was always going to be difficult, especially against the world-class spinners like Yuzvendra Chahal and R Ashwin. A few early wickets and that small total would have definitely looked like a high mountain. That is where Rachin Ravindra came into the picture as Chennai had dropped the idea of opening with Ajinkya Rahane. While Gaikwad played the anchor role, just because his side could afford it today given the small total, Rachin went all guns blazing. A six against Sandeep Sharma, one of the most economical pacers of this season of IPL, felt like a statement. Rachin did not spare his fellow New Zealander, Trent Boult, too as CSK raced to 28/0 in three overs.

Even when Ravindra fell, Daryl Mitchell continued the same brand of cricket making most of the fielding restrictions and the opposition captain had no other option but to bring Chahal immediately after the powerplay. Chahal did his part. Rajasthan did send Shivam Dube back before he could take the game away from them. Even the first 'obstructing the field' dismissal of this season went against Chennai, but none of it could derail the result as Chennai sealed the deal with a five-wicket victory. "We wanted to put out a great positive performance for our fans (given) that it is our last home game unless we make the playoffs so you cannot fault the guy's efforts today. It was very hot for the players, but we wanted to embrace that. I am proud of their attitude because the guys said we know it's going to be hard but we want to give our 100% best efforts," Hussey found the perfect words to describe the grit and grind of the five-time champions.

With this result, Chennai have kept their dream alive. And now the clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru next week stands between them and yet another play-offs.

Male wrestlers' below-par show not a good sign

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

SUJEET Kalkal (65kg) and Jaideep (74kg) lost their respective bronze medal bouts to go out of contention for the Paris Olympics quota in Istanbul, Turkey on Sunday. American wrestler Zain Allen Retherford beat Sujeet while Jaideep won his first repechage bout against Arslan Amanmyradov of Turkmenistan only to lose the next against Soner Demirtas of Turkey at the World Olympic Games Qualifier.

This means just one male wrestler will represent the country at the sporting extravaganza as only Aman Sehrawat (57kg) won an Olympic quota for India. The last time only one male wrestler represented the country at the Olympics was in the 2000 Sydney Games. Since 2004, three or more male wrestlers competed at the Olympics winning five medals (2 silver and 3 bronze) across the five editions.

The dismal show by the Indian men wrestlers despite their women counterparts making history winning five berths brings the role of all stakeholders under scanner. What could have hurt the wrestlers most was the massive protest against the former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh that crippled the wrestling activities in the country for almost 14 months. During this period, the WFI remained suspended with ad-hoc committees managing its affairs. This also saw wrestlers remaining confined to their respective training centres with no national camps, national championships and very few exposure trips that too for a few select wrestlers. "Those 14 months caused irreparable damage to Indian wrestling," Sanjay Kumar Singh, the WFI president, told this daily. Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) are the women wrestlers, who have qualified.

Aman Sehrawat (L) with WFI chief Sanjay Kumar Singh

Indian wrestlers at Oly (Since 2004)

Year	FS	GR	WW
2004	6	1	0
2008	3	0	0
2012	4	0	1
2016*	3	2	3
2020*	4	0	4

*1 wrestler found dope positive each in 2016 & 2020 & didn't compete

So why did women wrestlers remain unaffected while their male counterparts had to bear the consequences and the WFI chief came up with an interesting reply. "Out of five qualified women, three are the up-and-coming wrestlers which speaks volumes of the work done by the WFI before the protest. The federation put a plan in place since the Tokyo Games and its target was the 2028 Olympics. Antim and Reetika are the products of that plan."

On men's below-par show, the WFI president said, "Women wrestlers usually train under the watchful eyes of their parents so even when the camps were not there, they were working hard at their respective akharas. To be honest, their parents or guardians do not allow them to be part of the protest after the first few days. The male wrestlers are usually on their own away from their parents. There was also pressure from a few akharas to join the protest. Here also Aman came from the junior rank. The other two — Sujeet and Jaideep — were also junior wrestlers before graduating to the senior ranks." He also said that selection trials will be held to choose the best team for the country after June 10.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

RCB's Rajat Patidar (L) & Will Jacks put on a partnership of 88 runs | SPORTZPICS

Patidar shows Will to keep Bengaluru alive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

ABOUT a fortnight ago, when Royal Challengers Bengaluru arrived in Hyderabad to take on Sunrisers, their campaign seemed all but out. They had one win and seven losses in eight games, and were in a desperate need for a turnaround. Enter Rajat Patidar.

While the Madhya Pradesh batter's bad luck had extended from the Test series against England into the IPL, in that match, it all changed. Patidar came out all guns blazing, smashing a 20-ball 50. RCB won by 35 runs, with Patidar lighting the spark for a spectacular turn of events. In the next match against Gujarat Titans, Will Jacks became the last piece of the puzzle that is RCB middle-order. The Englishman went from 29-ball 44 to 41-ball 100 as RCB registered their third win. From thereon, they beat GT in a return home game and then thrashed Punjab Kings in Dharamsala where Patidar was the hero again, hitting a 32-ball 52.

On Sunday, in yet another must win encounter, this time against Delhi Capitals, RCB lost both Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli in the powerplay. It was down to Patidar and Jacks, once again, to do the rescue act. Despite the fall of wickets, the duo launched a calculated counter-attack to keep the innings going. Patidar hit three fours off Mukesh Kumar and then took apart Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel. Jacks too joined the party as they just kept the sixes coming. RCB went from 36/2 to 124/2 in 52 balls. Patidar smashed yet another fifty. Once he got out, Jacks too fell in the next over to Kuldeep for 41 runs. From there, Cameron Green (32 n.o from 24 balls) took them to 187/9 in 20 overs. In reply, DC were all out for 140 in 19.1 overs.

From being down and out after eight games, RCB now has a fair chance to make it to the play-offs. And for that, among other things including Kohli's form, they have Patidar and Jacks to thank for. **Brief scores:** RCB 187/8 in 20 ovs (Patidar 52, Jacks 41; Salam 2/23) **bt** DC 140 in 19.1 ovs (Axar 57; Dayal 3/20).

Clinical Chennai register Royal win to stay in hunt for top-four finish

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

RUTURAJ Gaikwad's valuable 42 not out and Simarjeet Singh's 3/26 came in handy for defending champions Chennai Super Kings to beat Rajasthan Royals by five wickets at the MA Chidambaram stadium here on Sunday. With the win, Chennai go third in the point table and remain very much in contention for the play-offs.

Set a target of 142 for a win, CSK openers Ruturaj and Rachin Ravindra went about the task in a professional manner. Having reduced Rajasthan to a gettable score, the CSK top-order was high in confidence and one could see the measured and risk-free manner in which they accumulated runs. When Rachin was well set to play a long innings, he was done by R Ashwin's change of pace and was caught and bowled. Thereafter, Ruturaj and Daryl Mitchell stitched a useful partnership and ensured that the hosts were on track.

Ruturaj waited for the right ball to attack and his huge six off Nandre Burger over the backward square-leg fence was perhaps the shot of the evening as it had grace written all over it. Rajasthan skipper Sanju Samson kept employing pace-spin combinations on a regular basis. He replaced Ashwin with Yuzvendra Chahal. The leggie trapped Mitchell on the pads and later Burger induced Moeen Ali to play a false stroke to Avesh Khan. Meanwhile, Ravindra Jadeja was given out obstructing the field. Jadeja dabbed Avesh to third man and was halfway down the pitch for the second run but Ruturaj wasn't keen. Third man hurled it to Samson who caught the ball and had a shy at the bowler's end but the throw hit Jadeja. The third umpire, after seeing the replay, gave Jadeja out. All along Ruturaj stood rock solid at one end and, along with Sameer Rizvi, took CSK home in a must win game.

Simarjeet Singh reacts after taking a wicket against RR on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

TITANS TAKE ON KNIGHT RIDERS

SHUBMAN Gill's return to form will provide a big boost to Gujarat Titans as they square off against table-toppers Kolkata Knight Riders in their must-win IPL game here on Monday. They will have to win two games and a few other results have to go their way for them to have a chance of advancing.

Gujarat Titans vs Kolkata Knight Riders, Ahmedabad
Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7.30PM

Earlier, opting to bat, Rajasthan had a sedate start. Both openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler could not force the pace. In the first three overs the duo could manage only 14 runs. Ruturaj employed pace and spin to stifle the run flow as the visitors made 42 runs in the powerplay without any damage. The drinks break affected Jaiswal's concentration and he fell to Simarjeet. Butler was restless to score as he was tied down by Ravindra Jadeja. Simarjeet reaped the rewards as he bowled a fuller one which Butler tried to scoop, but miscued it towards fine leg where Tushar completed a stunning catch diving to his right. Now, a lot depended on Sanju and Parag. Parag struggled against Jadeja while Samson was subdued and was unable to pick the gaps or score boundaries by hitting over the top. Once again Simarjeet rose to the occasion and ended Sanju's suffering. From thereon, Parag and Dhruv Jurel took RR to 141/5.

Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals 141/5 in 20 ovs (Jurel 28, Parag 47 n.o; Deshpande 2/30, Simarjeet 3/26) **lost to** Chennai Super Kings 145/5 in 18.2 ovs (Rachin 27, Gaikwad 42 n.o; Ashwin 2/35, Burger 1/21).

Pistol shooters Esha and Anish top OST T3 finals

ENS/AGENCIES @ Bhopal

ESHA Singh and Anish Bhanwala dominated the proceedings on Sunday to claim top honours in their respective events in the Olympic Selection Trial (OST T3).

Esha was simply unstoppable in the women's 25m pistol as she shot 43 in the finals of the OST T3. That tally is a point more than the existing world record. However, it doesn't count as trials are not taken into consideration by ISSF, the governing body that maintains such records.

Manu Bhaker finished second with a tally of 40. Rhythm Sangwan finished third. Anish, meanwhile, seems to be shooting with plenty of confidence at the moment as he also put up a dominant show in the men's rapid fire pistol. He bossed the five-man finals field with three perfect series of five-hits to begin the eight series final. He eventually missed just four to finish with 36 hits to finish as topper.

FOOTBALL

Arsenal grind out win to go top

AGENCIES @ London

THE tightly-contested Premier League title will be decided on the final day of the season.

Arsenal ensured the same by keeping up the pressure on Manchester City with a 1-0 victory over Manchester United to go top of the Premier League on Sunday. It was the in-form Leandro Trossard who scored the vital goal in the 20th minute of the match that was played at Old Trafford. With this win, Arsenal are one point above Man City, who have a game in hand. The Gunners have 86 points after 37 games while Man City have 85 points in 36 games. Arsenal will be hoping that City will drop points in the next fixture.

Arsenal's Leandro Trossard (c) scores against Manchester United on Sunday | AP

Atletico beat Celta

MADRID: Rodrigo De Paul's superb volley earned Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win over Celta Vigo on Sunday to virtually guarantee Champions League football next season. Diego Simeone's side, fourth, move eight points clear of fifth-place Athletic Bilbao with just three games remaining. After the Copa del Rey winners drew against Osasuna on Saturday, Atletico left it late but were able to take advantage to move further clear.

De Paul struck after 84 minutes to delight fans at the Metropolitano stadium just as it seemed all the hosts' pressure would come to nothing.

Supermom Veerpal dedicates win to daughter

TANMAY DAS @ Bhubaneswar

The inaugural day of the 27th National Federation Senior Athletics Competition did not produce any remarkable results at the Kalinga Stadium here on Sunday. However, Punjab athlete Veerpal Kaur, mother of a three-year-old, was thrilled as she clinched the gold medal in the women's 400m hurdles, clocking 59.43 seconds.

After she became a mother, Veerpal made her comeback in 2023 and won a silver medal each in the Open National Championship 2023 held at Bangalore and National Games 2023 held at Goa. "Being a mother it's a great moment for me, I dedicate this gold medal to my baby girl. Though I am not happy with my timings, gold is gold. Today's (Sunday) race will motivate me to do better in the upcoming events. Motherhood has never been a burden for me. With the support of my in-law family and from my husband, I made my comeback," said Veerpal, who is presently working in Punjab Police. Talking about female athletes who away from family after getting married, Veerpal said, "It was not that difficult to get back on track again, needing a little bit of time management and determination. As my husband is a 110m hurdler, we both planned that our girl will be the future athlete of our country."

Results: women's 400m hurdles: Veerpal Kaur (Punjab 59.43s), Salini Valupara (Kerala 1:00.73), Ramandeep Kaur (Punjab 1:01.29); **men's 400m hurdles:** Santosh Kumar (Tamil Nadu 50.04), Nikhil Bharadwaj (Punjab 50.92), Dhaval Mahesh (Gujarat 51.13).

EXPRESS READ

Deeksha sets NR in LA meet

NEW DELHI: Indian athlete KM Deeksha set a national record in the women's 1500m while Avinash Sable finished second in men's 5000m event at the Sound Running Track Fest in Los Angeles. Deeksha finished third in the final after running the distance in 4:04.78. The previous record was 4:05.39.

Pragg finishes 4th; Carlsen wins

WARSAW: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finished clear fourth while Magnus Carlsen came up with a rousing performance on the final day to seal his place at the top of the table in the Superbet rapid and blitz tournament. Wei Yi of China had to be content with a second spot.

Messi plays through injury scare

MONTREAL: Lionel Messi played the entire game despite a first-half injury scare, Benjamin Cremaschi broke a tie in the 59th minute and Inter Miami overcame an early two-goal deficit to beat Montreal 3-2 on Saturday night for its fifth consecutive Major League Soccer victory.

As students move towards new-age engineering courses like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, it is important to understand what these courses entail, what they require and where are these industries headed. **Saumyangi Yadav** looks at what educators and experts have to say

BEFORE YOU CHOOSE AI

A FULL PICTURE OF EMERGING ENGINEERING COURSES

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain — while these terms wouldn't have been familiar to anyone less than a decade ago, now, everyone is talking about them. And if you are someone aspiring to get into the engineering field, then you might have noticed this trend a little more keenly.

Digital advancements, evolving industry requirements, surge in job opportunities and high salary packages are attracting a large number of fresh graduates as well as experienced engineers towards these new-age engineering courses. However, while applying to colleges, a few questions might still arise — Which course suits my interests best? Which course will make me employable and industry-ready? Are there enough placement opportunities? Let us look into a few of these questions.

Are core-engineering courses less in demand today?

While there might be a shift towards digital technologies, the core engineering courses still remain indispensable, expressed educators and experts.

Dr S Kumar, Executive Secretary of the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK), the body which conducts COMEDK exam for admission into private engineering colleges of Karnataka, said, "Core engineering courses, especially mechanical engineering, remains to be the core of all engineering branches. If you learn mechanical, you can easily move to any other industry with some effort. Focusing on the emerging engineering branches alone might not be the best idea."

Due to this reason, many universities and colleges in Karnataka focus on providing convergence education with both core disciplines like Mechanical, Civil and Computer Science along with emerging branches.

Dr Phani Kumar Pullela, Professor & Associate Dean, School of Computer Science & Engineering, RV University, Bengaluru, explained, "The focus on core branches is still paramount at RV University, which opts to offer only core Computer Science Engineering, consciously not offering specific degrees in AI, ML, or Data Science. If one opts for emerging courses, it is crucial to take core courses seriously, delve beyond basic teaching-learning, and be thorough and explorative."

Barriers in training: What is required at the moment?

For both students and educational institutes, it can be a challenge to cope with the rapidly changing technical education landscape while ensuring quality in new-age technological courses.

Industry collaboration, quality infrastructure and labs, and faculty training programmes are imperative when it comes to ensuring the quality of training in new-age engineering courses.

Dr S Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), a public state university and one of the largest technological universities in India, expressed, "Of course, there is a scope for improvement and development when it comes to training in emerging courses, like more labs need to be developed. Facilities in educational institutes are not up to the mark if the number of takers in these courses are considered."

"VTU is also creating a centre of excellence in AI. The university is collaborating with many industries, others are in the process as far as AI is concerned. We are encouraging the colleges also to improve the facilities on an individual level," added Vidyashankar.

Meanwhile, Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) and former Chairperson of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) opined that more than infrastructural changes, these new emerging courses require trained faculty.

"Now for this, AICTE has launched faculty training programmes. More importantly, teachers need to take time to update and upgrade themselves as per the requirements. Similarly, students choosing these courses need to work, self-learn, and ask quality questions to the teachers so they can grow mutually," opined Sahasrabudhe.

Dr Anil Rana, Director of Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), was of the same opinion. "We need to constantly run faculty development programmes so that they too remain abreast with the new developments. Hence, every time a new system or a new platform is introduced, the institutes will have to invest time and funds to ensure that the faculty members are prepared to understand and deliver knowledge through these new systems," he said.

Before entering the field

People who are in the industry opine that though fulfilling, these areas could be highly competitive.

Speaking about this, Smriti Singh, Data Scientist and Natural Language Processing (NLP) specialist who worked for the Generative AI team at Zee Entertainment, explained, "For anyone looking to enter this field, it is important to note that you are not only competing with your fellow batchmates and graduates but also experienced engineers. Everyone in the industry is moving towards AI and the competition is extremely high."

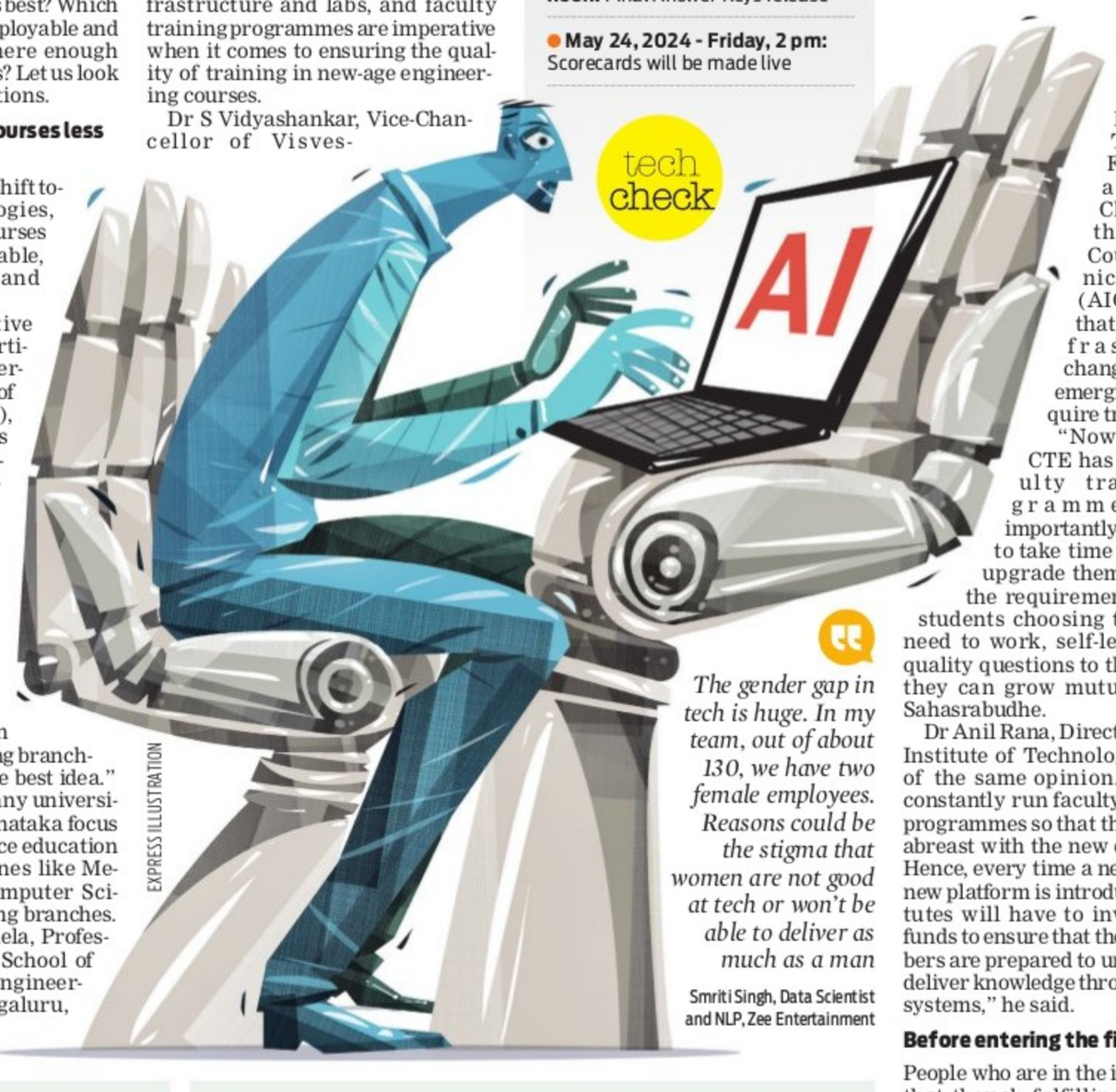
With a huge surge in the number of students opting for emerging engineering branches, another question that arises is — are there enough job requirements?

"These courses are still new, most colleges have had them for two to three years only. They are still in a premature stage and it's hard to gauge the placement opportunities. There is no doubt that there will definitely be job opportunities," said VTU VC Dr Vidyashankar.

SAVE THE DATES

COMEDK-UGET 2024 has already been conducted. So, what next? Here is a list of important dates as per COMEDK official website that you should note down

- **May 14, 2024 - Tuesday, 11 am:** Publishing of Provisional Answer Keys and the start date for raising objections
- **May 16, 2024 - Thursday, 4 pm:** Last date for receiving objections to Provisional Answer Keys
- **May 21, 2024 - Tuesday, 12 noon:** Final Answer Keys release
- **May 24, 2024 - Friday, 2 pm:** Scorecards will be made live



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

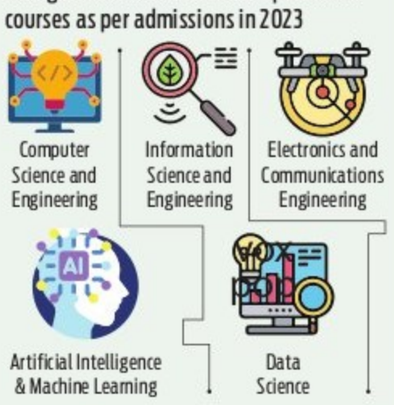
The gender gap in tech is huge. In my team, out of about 130, we have two female employees. Reasons could be the stigma that women are not good at tech or won't be able to deliver as much as a man

Smriti Singh, Data Scientist and NLP, Zee Entertainment

Courses which are most preferred

Topping the charts!

In 2023 as well, Computer Science and Engineering remained the most popular course in Karnataka's private engineering colleges. Here is a list of most preferred courses as per admissions in 2023



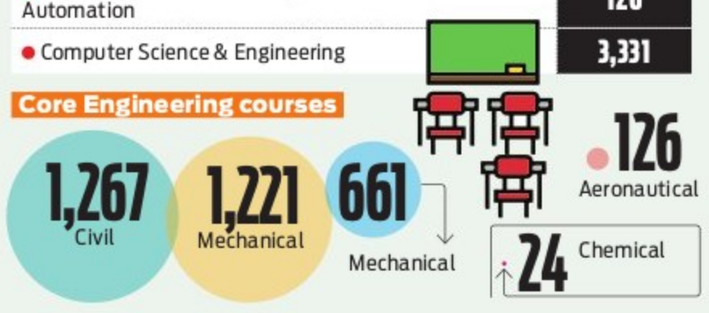
SEATS GONE VACANT? NEW-AGE VS CORE COURSES

IN 2023, AS MANY AS 14,543 OUT OF THE TOTAL 22,837 SEATS OFFERED BY COMEDK WERE LEFT VACANT. HERE IS A BREAKDOWN OF SOME OF THE POPULAR COURSES AND HOW MANY SEATS WERE LEFT VACANT IN EACH OF THEM

New-age courses

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (also includes CSE+Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)	1,262
Artificial Intelligence & Data Science	69
IoT & Cyber Security including Blockchain Technology	172
Robotics & Artificial Intelligence + Robotics & Automation	126
Computer Science & Engineering	3,331

Core Engineering courses



Source: comedk.org

ON TO THE NEXT STEP

COUNSELLING

Next step: COMEDK Counselling

Now that you are done with the COMEDK-UGET exam, the next step to your dream engineering college in Karnataka is the counselling process. While you wait for results, here is essential information on the counselling process

STEPS TO REGISTER FOR COUNSELLING

1. Login in by using application number and password via comedk.org
2. Click on 'Counselling Registration' tab
3. Verify details and pay registration fee of ₹2,000 *(non-refundable) to participate in counselling (Check fee policy in the counselling quick guide before proceeding to t he next step)*
4. Complete the payment process and check if the payment was done successfully
5. Once the successful payment message is displayed, close the tab and you can go back to your application form
6. Click on 'Document Upload' tab *(This tab will be visible only after registration is completed)*
7. Upload the documents applicable to you
8. Frequently check your application and email to find out the verification status of the documents you have uploaded

Beyond COMEDK-UGET

Here are new educational initiatives that go beyond the entrance test

COMEDK-UGET, which started in the academic year 2004-05, has earned repute in and outside the state of Karnataka in the last 10 years. Now, the consortium is moving beyond the entrance test. COMEDK Executive Secretary delves deeper into their new initiatives and their success

ON SUNDAY, May 12, the Consortium of Medical, Engineering, and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) conducted its Undergraduate Common Entrance Test (UGET) for admission into Karnataka's private engineering colleges.

In the last 10 years, since its inception in the academic year 2004-05, the entrance examination has gained much popularity among students inside and outside Karnataka. In fact, now, close to 70 per cent of the takers of COMEDK are from outside the state.

COMEDKares: Innovation hubs

COMEDK offers the opportunity for students from other states to receive quality education and training in engineering in the technological hub of the country. Following this increasing hype among aspiring engineers for Karnataka's colleges, the Karnataka-based consortium, in 2022, launched innovation hubs called COMEDKares. These were launched across the state to improve the skills and employability of the students in its constituent colleges.

These innovation hubs provide new-age engineering programmes, endorsed by VTU and recognised by the industry, and provide hands-on training and internship opportunities through industry collaboration.

new steps

However, the appeal for COMEDKares isn't limited to Karnataka alone. Recently, the consortium, along with its partner Educational Rating and Assessment (ERA) Foundation, signed a collaboration with Uttar Pradesh to set up similar innovation hubs.

As a pilot project, the COMEDK will lend support to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) in Lucknow to help set up three such innovation hubs in the state. "We will train the faculty and overlook infrastructure and required equipment," Dr Kumar said.

MARG: Career-planning tool

Another initiative that the ERA Foundation and the COMEDK have launched is MARG, a career-planning and career-counselling tool for school students.

"One generally doesn't ask children what is it that they would like to pursue. Hence, we have started a new initiative called MARG, an online aptitude test and a career-planning tool, which we introduce to the students of Class X," Dr S Kumar explained.

There are similar aptitude tests available in states like Maharashtra which charge close to ₹20,000 to ₹25,000 per student. However, COMEDK and ERA Foundation are offering this at ₹780.

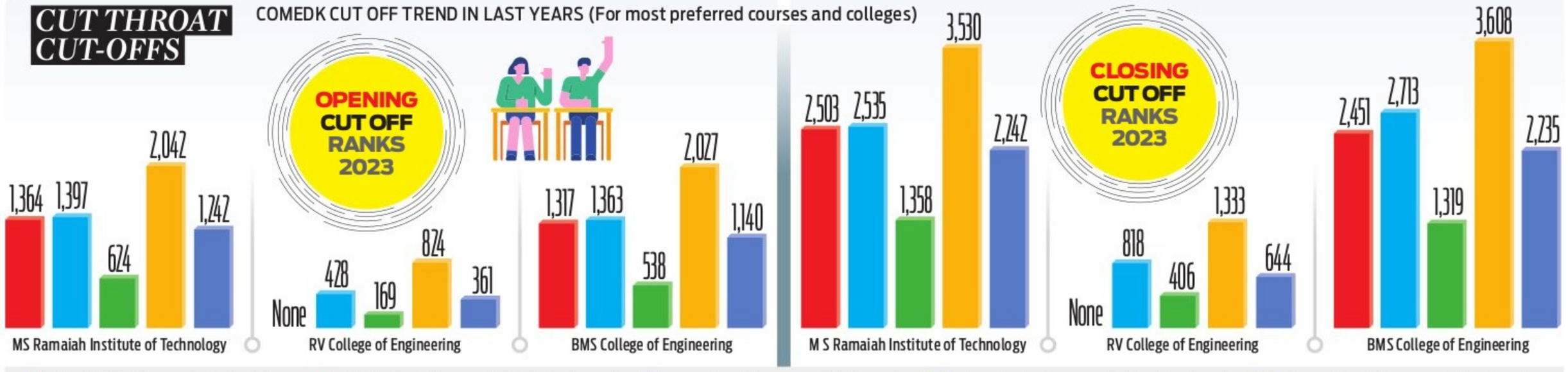
"Meanwhile, as our commitment to government schools, we are offering this free of cost. Of course, there are challenges. There are many schools that only have a few or no computers at all. We have about 4,000 tablets we have set up in these schools and we train the students on how to use them before conducting the test," he said.

As part of MARG, the students are assessed based on their aptitude and personality. A personal and comprehensive report gets delivered to the students within 30 minutes of taking the test with the help of AI. The test is followed by a counsellor explaining the results to the teacher, parent and child.

"We brief the students and parents about courses, its scope, the institutions it is offered in and so on. We have a database for 90-odd courses which we share with the students. Also, we have now started the initiative in more than six Indian languages for students from non-English-medium backgrounds as well," he says.

CUT THROAT CUT-OFFS

COMEDK CUT OFF TREND IN LAST YEARS (For most preferred courses and colleges)


OPENING CUT OFF RANKS 2023
1,364 1,397 624 2,042 1,242
MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology
None 428 169 824 361
RV College of Engineering
1,317 1,363 538 2,027 1,140
BMS College of Engineering
CLOSING CUT OFF RANKS 2023
2,503 2,535 1,358 3,530 2,242
M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology
None 818 406 1,333 644
RV College of Engineering
2,451 2,713 1,319 3,608 2,735
BMS College of Engineering
Artificial Intelligence & Data Science | Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning | Computer Science and Engineering | Electronics & Communication Engineering | Information Science and Engineering

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MONDAY

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

DAY'S DIARY

New government

On this day in 1952, the first elected government of free India was formed under the newly adopted Constitution

FIRST PM

The Congress party garnered an overwhelming majority in the election. The cabinet was formed with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru as the Prime Minister

ELECTION RESULT

The Prime Minister was elected to the House of the People from his home constituency of Allahabad, defeating four opponents by 1,05,462 votes

CELEBRATIONS

Soon after the result announcement, shouts of "Nehru Zindabad" were raised by the people. The results were told to the PM on phone

City-based actor Kajol Chugh plays a spirited elder sister in the relatable coming-of-age comedy drama *Amber Girls School* – a nostalgic trip to the past

MIXTAPE TO THE NOUGHTIES

DESE GOWDA

REMEMBER those coded text messages you snuck past watchful teachers? The rush of first crushes? The whispered anxieties of a world still discovering itself? In an era of mind-numbing social media feeds, where connections seem endless yet loneliness thrives, *Amber Girls School* – a Hindi-language coming-of-age comedy-drama series, starring city-based actor **Kajol Chugh**, transports you back to these simpler, yet surprisingly complex, memories – a mixtape come to life. Set in Chandigarh in 2008, the show follows Ojaswini, a 15-year-old student, as she navigates her ambitions, friendships, a blossoming crush, and the everyday challenges of being a teenager.

"When I picked up the script, it felt fresh," Chugh says, recalling her initial reaction to reading the script. For her, the show's ability to evoke strong nostalgia is at the heart of its appeal. "It takes you back to that era, which is nostalgic in a harsh way because India was facing a recession. But it was also an exciting time because the country was opening up to the world faster than ever. It was a mix of feelings. Primarily, the show is light and fun, reminiscent of our own school days – how strict the teachers were – and it also explores the struggles across different ages. The script highlights female characters during an economic period in India when films and TV usually only talked about trivial domestic issues. It also addresses issues that weren't talked about openly back then, but are part of routine conversations now," she adds.

A still from the show

For Chugh, who portrays Ojas' elder sister, the show marks a departure from the bubbly, carefree characters that she's known for in the past, to a more grounded, ambitious character. "During the auditions, I felt like I was channelling my older sister! And that helped me connect with the character. She knows her priorities and justifies her actions to herself, which I think many can relate to," she adds.

Currently trending on Amazon MiniTV, *Amber Girls School* has received praise for its emotional depth and its raw, unfiltered look at the lives of young girls who challenge and break free from societal norms. Chugh says the show is like sitting with your loved ones, where any conversation feels safe. "It's warm and wholesome, yet it also addresses issues, promising redemption. It's like looking back on life, which only makes sense in retrospect," she says, adding, "The show serves as a reflection of the time passed. It discusses themes and situations that were only whispered about at home back then but are openly discussed today. Watching the show feels normal now, but those topics weren't approached openly in 2008. It's a great conversation starter in a family setting."

Meanwhile, despite it's themes, *Amber Girls School* has a broad appeal. "There are plenty of series about school life, many of my friends who were initially sceptical about another school series found it engaging because it speaks to a wider age group. Even parents in their 40s and 50s enjoy the show as it gives them a perspective on how they treated their kids and maybe what could have been done differently," Chugh adds.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher for a one-month subscription worth ₹3,000 from Suay - Asian Cafe**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Ayran 2) Esquites 3) Agua Fresca

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Mansi Suresh
2) Prathap VP
3) Poonam Iyer

SEAL(S) THE DEAL

PG 3

CITY READ

Week-long Malaysian food fare till May 19

The Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel & Convention Centre is hosting a week-long culinary celebration of Malaysian cuisine from May 13 to 19, from 6.30pm to 11pm. Diners can embark on a flavourful journey through Nonya cuisine, a blend of Malay and Chinese culinary traditions. This food pop-up will be hosted by celebrity chef Kuan Lai, sharing his expertise in Asian cuisine alongside in-house Thai expert chef Rungtiwa at InAzia. Diners can anticipate a menu showcasing the vibrancy and diversity of pan-Asian flavours. For reservations, contact 89040 52101.

Motorsport drag meet between May 17 and 19

Bengaluru-based Vroom Motorsports announced the 10th anniversary edition of the Vroom Drag Meet, scheduled from May 17 to May 19, at the Taneja Aerospace Aviation facility in Hosur. The event marks a significant milestone for Vroom Motorsports as they have been entrusted with hosting the FMSCI Indian National Drag Racing Championship 4 Wheeler for the next five years. The lineup for this year's meet includes drag races featuring a diverse array of vehicles, bike and car stunt shows, drifting demonstrations, and an exhibition showcasing the latest in automotive innovation.

Hailing from Mangaluru, singer Nakash Aziz who shot to fame with Amit Trivedi's *Suno Aisha* on his latest song *Pushpa Pushpa* for Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2*, collaborating with Arijit Singh and more

'I steer clear of mimicking someone else'

RESHMI CHAKRAVORTY

INFECTIOUS energy, impeccable vocal prowess, ability to captivate, enchant make Mangaluru-born singer **Nakash Aziz** stand out in the sea of talents of the music industry. With his blend of versatility, energy, and soulful renditions, Aziz has carved a niche for himself. Since his debut, Aziz has been delivering one chartbuster after another, including songs in popular Hindi films like *Aisha* and *R Rajkumar;* and Kannada films like *Thamassu* and *Vikrant Rona*. The recently-released single by Aziz, *Pushpa Pushpa* from Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2* is ruling the charts. *CE* gets in touch with Aziz about the song, his new collaboration with Oriyon Music curated by Arijit Singh, musical journey and more.

Tell us about your track *Tu Naazneen* on Oriyon Music.

Tu Naazneen is a simple song that speaks about longing in a direct and straightforward manner. The song conveys the feeling of missing someone, especially in a long-distance relationship. It's all in the words, which are simple and heartfelt.

What inspired you to pursue a career in music?

My pursuit of a career in music wasn't so much about being inspired as it was about my love for music and art in general. I started making music in a garage, with basic equipment and limited resources. Over time, I sought to improve the quality and collaborate with talented artistes. This drive to collaborate with the best and be part of exciting projects has shaped my career in music.

Can you tell us about your journey in the music industry so far?

My journey has been nothing short of beautiful. Despite warnings of its harshness, I've encountered genuine souls who've helped me grow. Letting others push me has been key. They've pushed my talent, patience, and physical limits, helping me surpass what I thought possible. What I cherish most is collaborating with those who share my drive. It's this journey of growth that keeps my passion for music alive.

How do you approach the process of selecting songs to perform or record?

I vividly recall each recording session. In the studio, I always strive to innovate, even if it means trying something unexpected. I believe in pushing boundaries, knowing that if it doesn't work out, there's always a delete button. It's about embracing the unfamiliar, giving it a chance to grow on you. Sometimes, what initially seems daunting becomes an integral part of the final piece. That's the beauty of experimentation in music.

What challenges have you faced as a singer, and how have you overcome them?

The challenge I often encounter is the expectation for me to be someone else. I find it unfair because everyone is unique, with something valuable to offer. I steer clear of mimicking someone else for the sake of results. While tribute or mimicry can be fun, serious emulation is unjust.

Your versatility as a singer is widely appreciated. How do you manage to excel in various genres?

I've only just begun to delve into the world of music genres in my personal space. Exploring different kinds, forms, and genres of music brings me immense joy. I admire artistes like Rehman sir, Pritam *da*, and Vishal-Shekhar from the Hindi film industry who have brilliantly explored a wide range of genres. Their versatility is truly inspiring.

Are there any particular artistes who have influenced you?

If I were to pinpoint major influences, I'd have to mention AR Rehman, Hans Zimmer, Michael Jackson, and Pritam da. Yet, it feels unfair to single out just one. There's a wealth of inspiration to draw from, spanning across diverse artistes like Coldplay and Bruno Mars.

What advice would you give to aspiring singers who are just starting their careers?

Remember, music is meant to be enjoyed. So, simply revel in your music, soak in the joy it brings, and let that be your guiding principle.

Shot on a smartphone

A 23-year-old recent graduate is holding a workshop on the art of making films on the phone

MONIKA MONALISA

IF there is one thing that is impossible for you to leave the home without, it would probably be your phone. One device you would constantly use to capture a moment is again is your mobile phone. A tool of convenience, the phone has advanced to the extent that an entire film can be shot on it.

Filmmaker **Ridah Zaman** is holding a workshop to hone the art of filmmaking on mobile phones. More than filmmaking, it is the art of storytelling that the working will be focusing on. "The initial thought was to teach storytelling because it is a skill that helps in any field," says Zaman. The medium became a mobile phone because of its convenience. "It just made sense to shoot on a smartphone because it's something that is accessible to everybody. A regular camera needs additional sound, more time and more skills to pick up," she adds.

Having graduated from film school last year, the 23-year-old hopes to break the myth that people have that filmmaking is an expensive affair. "If you are passionate about filmmaking, don't think of money as a constraint. There are many other ways you could start filmmaking," she signs off.

(The workshop is being held between May 13 and 15 at the Museum of Art & Photography, Kasturba Road)

MAX MULLER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Basaveshwaranagara 8th Main, Bangalore
SSLC TOPPERS 2023-24

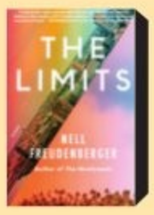
SMT. HEMALATHA
HEAD MISTRESS

MANISH TANDEL 98.4% | SHANITHA S.K. 95.36% | YUKTHA M.P. 95.36% | HEMASHREE M. 94.72% | PRUTHVI SHREE 94.72% | PUNEETH 92.96% | YOGITHA S. 92.64% | VISMAYA C. 92.48% | DHANYA SHREE 92.16% | RIDHI M. JAIN 92.16% | SHIVASWAROOP 92%
SHREYA M. 91.68% | STEPHEN RAJ G. 89.92% | HARI PRIYA 89.6% | JEEVAN G. 89.2% | CHANDANA H. 88.16% | SREE RANGA 87.8% | DINESH REDDY S. 87.52% | NAMRATHA K.S. 87.3% | SHREYA S. JOSHI 87.04% | DIVYA SHREE A. 86.72% | SHREYA K. 86.72%
DIGANTH GOWDA D.S. 86.4% | PREETH S. JAIN 86.24% | SHIVANI S. 86.24% | BHARGAVA RAMA N. 86.08% | ROHITH R. 85.4% | DHRUVA 85.28% | GANGOTHRI M.N. 85.12% | RACHANA A.S. 84.64% | KUSUMA A. 84.16% | VISHAL S. 84%

BOOK NOOK

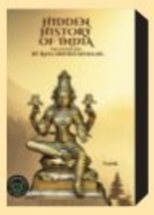
Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder
By Salman Rushdie

This autobiography speaks about Rushdie's personal life, journey as an author, and the aftermath of his murder attack in 2022, when he was giving a speech on keeping the writers in the world free from harm.



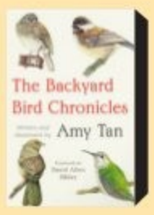
The Limits
By Nell Freudenberger

Revolves around a high school teacher who exerts to connect with her husband's daughter from his first marriage and one of her teenage students who parents a toddler, leading her to question her motherhood abilities.



Hidden History Of India – The Other Side
By Rasa Dhuriyan

The author takes us into our unspoken and forgotten past through the history of the ancient temples in India by researching the stone carvings, inscriptions, statues, and pillars in order to bring out the testimony of our past rulers.



The Backyard Bird Chronicles
By Amy Tan

A book on bird watching and sensing the nature around us, illustrated with sketches of the birds in the author's neighbourhood, puts questions on the state our world has made upon nature.

HIGH HOPES

Ahead of the match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday, a mother-daughter pose for the camera | **ALLEN EGENUSE J**

QUICKFIX

MANGO TANGO PHIRINI

INGREDIENTS

- **Basmati rice/ jeera rice:** 1/4 cup
- **Cashews:** 3 tsp
- **Alphonso Mango (pulp):** 1
- **Cardamom powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Saffron:** 10 strands
- **Sugar:** 1/4 cup
- **Water (enough to soak rice)**
- **Almonds:** 3
- **Milk (full fat):** 500 ml
- **Salt:** a pinch
- **Pistachios:** few slices

METHOD

- Grind soaked rice with cashews and almonds. Coarsely grind them.
- Add this to the boiling milk.
- Boil it thoroughly.
- Add sugar and cardamom powder and cook it for 15-20 minutes.
- Add the mango paste, give it a boil, and serve.
- Better served chilled.

Contributed by **Mandira R**, Bengaluru

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My dog loves milk and yet some say it is not good for dogs. Is this a myth?

Food ingredients that pose a risk to animals are termed Adverse Food Reaction (AFR). Almost 75% of dogs reared on milk, bread, and a wheat-based diet present themselves with AFR. Some of them may have to be treated for it life-long. Considering the potential long-termism of the treatment involved and the high prevalence of AFR, it's highly recommended to avoid such feed ingredients. Unfortunately, milk falls into this category. To answer your question more objectively, please keep in mind that dogs are not reared on milk from a different species. It's best avoided.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

SUKHASANA CHAIR URDHVA EKA PADA

(EASY POSE CHAIR ONE LEG RAISED)

This is a chair-supported variation that can help alleviate back pain and discomfort associated with prolonged sitting. This stretch can be beneficial for those in rehabilitation programmes recovering from lower body injuries, surgeries, sprains, or fractures while reducing the pressure on the lower back.

STEPS

- Keep a chair as per your height handy and start aligning in Chair Tadasana (Chair Mountain Pose).
- Sit upright with the arms kept at the edge of the chair and feet placed flat on the ground.
- Ensure that your chin is aligned parallel to the floor and shoulders are rolled back.
- Ground down through your sit bones and take a few deep breaths here.
- Inhale and lift your right foot off the ground, and extend it straight before you.
- Keep your knee straight but not locked. The right leg should be parallel to the floor, with the toes pointing upwards. The other foot (left) should be firmly placed on the ground.
- Hold the pose for about six breaths or as per your capacity. Breathe slowly and deeply. Keep your hips leveled and avoid leaning to one side.
- To release, exhale, and lower the raised leg (right), and come back into Chair Tadasana. Stay here for a breath or two.
- Counter the stretch on the other side and relax and rest in the Dirga Pranayama Chair (Three-Part Breath Chair).

- If you feel uncomfortable, you can use pillows, folded blankets, bolsters, or blocks for your feet.

BENEFITS

- Lengthens and straightens the spine, back, and neck.
- Activates the core muscles and improves focus and concentration.
- Aids in gaining stability in the neck and shoulder joints.
- Helps with the flow of prana.
- Alleviates stress in the neck, shoulders, upper, middle, and lower back.
- Helps balance the chakras and stimulates the vagus nerve.
- Activates the parasympathetic nervous system.
- Strengthens the lower body, targeting the quadriceps, hamstrings, and gluteal muscles.
- Enhances joint health and aids with mobility in the hips, knees, and ankles.
- Alleviates symptoms of vertigo by reducing sensations of dizziness and imbalance.
- Releases the tension around the hips, knees, and ankles.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with any injury to their neck, arms, shoulders, rib cage, spine, or back should avoid this.
- Those recovering from a surgery in their neck, shoulders, hips, or abdominal area or have back pain or are recovering from any spinal or vertebral issues, herniated disc, spondylolisthesis, etc., should take it slow and consult with a yoga expert before the practise.
- Those who are suffering from anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder may close their eyes and practice mindfulness.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Art Therapy

Get creative and don't hesitate to play with colours to create something of your own at this acrylic painting workshop. Perfect for beginners and seasoned painters.

WHEN: May 13, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Printing Art

Step into the enchanting world of block printing and discover this ancient art hands-on.

WHEN: May 14, 2pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

In Movement

Move with grace as you explore techniques and history of belly dancing in this one-hour session.

WHEN: May 14, 6.30pm **WHERE:** Etram Dance Academy, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Lego Mania

Explore the possibilities of eco-city with a varied collection of Lego and build your future with sustainability.

WHEN: May 14, 1.30pm
WHERE: Trinity Enclave, CV Raman Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Mic Night

Ignite your inner rockstar! Tune into a karaoke night with musicians who are ready to surprise you.

WHEN: May 14, 5pm
WHERE: Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Laugh Out Loud

Let humour drive your happiness as you experience an entertaining night with laughter at this standup comedy show.

WHEN: May 14, 8.30pm
WHERE: Klayworkz Barista, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Theatre Time

Buckle up for the show as the play *Natyadevacharite* unfolds a pretentious imposter. The play revolves around a rich man who becomes vulnerable to a fake imposter guru pretending to be pious and religious.

WHEN: May 14, 7.30pm **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER

SAILING INTO THE UNKNOWN

Artist Kamal Devnatha draws inspiration from the nature and rhythms of life in his painting 'Banaras', one from his recent collection 'Beyond the Frames'

SEAL(S) THE DEAL

With its blend of style, performance, and sustainability, the BYD Seal sets a new standard in the electric sedan segment

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

SUSTAINABLE transportation is the buzzword in the automobile industry. Indeed, the past few years have witnessed an earnest embracing of the electric. Though Tesla is deemed the poster boy in this domain, when it comes to sales performance, there is only one clear winner: BYD.

On March 25, the Chinese automaker became the world's first to roll out its seven millionth new energy vehicle. This would come as no surprise to keen industry followers as BYD had already registered record-breaking sales last year, surpassing three million units annually.

Through its subsidiary BYD India, the company has expanded its offerings in the country, which include MPV e6 and ATTO 3, with the introduction of the luxury electric sedan, BYD Seal.

Recently, I test-drove the Premium variant, which offers the longest range. Here, I share my thoughts on the vehicle.

Variants

The vehicle comes in three variants–Dynamic, Premium and Performance. The Dynamic dons a 61.44 kWh battery and offers a claimed range of 510 kilometres, while the premium promises 650 kilometres on an 82.5 kWh battery. The performance variant, on the other hand, boasts all-wheel drive capabilities and a range of 580 kilometres on an 82.5 kWh battery and two motors.

Design

The BYD Seal is a stylish sedan designed to maximise aerodynamics and range, with an 'ocean-inspired' design concept. Recognised with the coveted iF Design Award, its unique features include double U-shaped headlight clusters and dot matrix tail lights. Inside, the cabin features a 15.6-inch multimedia touchscreen with rotation function, offering vertical and horizontal orientation options. The air cooling inside the car is completely controlled via this screen, which may prove difficult when on the move.

The audio system is top-notch. The roof is a tinted glass panel, providing an open-sky experience, albeit with potential heat buildup in hot weather. The seats are sporty and supportive, with generous legroom even in the back row.

The 4,800-mm-long car has a 2,920-mm wheelbase. The vehicle not only features a spacious trunk in the rear (400 litres) but also boasts an additional 53 litres of storage space in the front (frunk).

Drive

The Seal impresses with its 313 hp motor, extreme aerodynamics, and efficient suspension, offering a pleasurable driving experience with commendable high-speed stability. Humps are the only places where one needs to be a little more cautious: the vehicle has just 145mm of ground clearance. Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) Level 2 features, such as adaptive cruise control and lane-keeping assistance, add to the driving experience.

Verdict

With its blend of style, performance, and sustainability, the BYD Seal sets a new standard in the electric sedan segment.

PRICE

Priced at ₹41 lakh for the Dynamic, ₹45.55 lakh for the Premium, and ₹53 lakh for the Performance (all ex-showroom), the Seal offers a compelling value proposition for a premium electric sedan, despite import taxes (it is imported as fully built cars).

BATTERY/ CHARGING

The Seal is equipped with BYD's blade battery, seamlessly integrated into the sedan's body, forming a strong 'sandwich' structure. It has a high-efficiency heat pump for efficient battery temperature regulation and low energy consumption. Charging options include a 220v AC power source at 7kW or a DC fast charger at 110 or 150kW, with high-speed charging capability allowing for a quick charge in just 26 minutes (from 30% to 80%) with a 150kW charger. AC 11kW makes charging at home more convenient and easy.

VARIANTS AND RANGE

Dynamic: 61.44 kWh
510 kilometres

Premium: 82.5 kWh
RWD; 650 kilometres

Performance: 82.5 kWh
AWD; 580 kilometres

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NEW RELEASES

MAHINDRA ROLLS OUT XUV 3XO

Mahindra & Mahindra has launched the XUV 3XO, with prices starting from ₹7.49 lakh. Setting new benchmarks in the compact SUV segment, the XUV 3XO combines standout design, premium interiors, comfortable ride, and cutting-edge technology. The XUV 3XO is powered by a lineup of world-class Turbo engines designed for performance and superior efficiency. The mStallion TGDi and the Turbo Diesel engines churn out best-in-class power and torque of 96 kW (130 PS) and 230Nm and 85.8 kW (117 PS) and 300Nm, respectively. Additionally, the mStallion TGDi clocks 0-60 km/h in 4.5 s while offering a segment-best fuel efficiency of 20.1 km/l with manual transmission. The XUV 3XO's bookings will open online and simultaneously at Mahindra dealerships from May 15, 2024.

MARUTI SUZUKI COMMENCES PRE-BOOKINGS FOR SWIFT

Maruti Suzuki India announces the commencement of pre-bookings for the highly anticipated 4th generation Epic New Swift for ₹11,000. In this all-new generation, the Epic New Swift builds on its much-loved signature sporty design while enhancing its dynamism and fun-to-drive quotient. Pre-booking options for customers: The Epic New Swift can be booked by logging on to marutisuzuki.com/swift or by visiting your nearest Maruti Suzuki ARENA showroom.

VOLKSWAGEN'S GT LINE HITS THE STREETS

Volkswagen India introduced the highly anticipated black sport-themed Taigun GT Line and Taigun GT Plus Sport. Both the vehicles are a part of the newly created 'Sport' line structure, featuring a fresh, visually distinct identity that forms part of the brand's new line structure for the Taigun. While the Taigun GT Line (1.0l TSI engine) has been launched for ₹14.08 lakh (ex-showroom), the Taigun GT Plus Sport has been introduced at ₹18.53 lakh (ex-showroom).

JAWA LAUNCHES 2024 MODELS

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has just launched its 2024 model range of the Bobber lineup. Jawa Perak gets a new dual-tone variant and is priced at ₹2,13,187 (same price as before), and the Jawa 42 Bobber is now priced at ₹2,09,500 (all prices ex-showroom Delhi). Also, the 42 Bobber gets two new variants: Mystic Copper and Jasper Red Dual Tone with diamond-cut alloy wheels straight from the factory. Perak is powered by a 334cc liquid-cooled engine with 29.9PS power and 30Nm Torque.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

Footprints in time

WE are slowly turning into our pre-Independence English conquers. We do nothing but talk about the weather all the time! We add little nuances in the conversation like, 'Oh! There's been a touch of rain, not enough to lower the temperatures, or it's going to be boiling hot now'! Of course, the eternal doomsday pundits will mutter and shake their heads about some unspeakable destruction that will befall us. Enough! I say. Enough! If we have sat back and 'allowed' this radical change of weather (which the scientists kept warning us about), then either we start to rectify the harm we have brought on ourselves or let's just sit back and take the consequences of our irresponsible actions on the chin.

As someone said...the earth will survive as it has been for billions of years... we may not!

So the world merrily goes about leaving a carbon-footprint on everything, and pseudo-saviours try out some nouvelle

Amit Khare & Anirban Dasgupta

Band-Aid measures and give Ted-X talks about saving the planet, all the while flying into multi-cities tours on gas guzzling jets! And their land-travels involve petrol-gobbling and fume belching SUV's leaving a huge carbon footprint and a depletion of the ozone layer. While us, the plebian folk, listen awestruck to their hypocritical rhetoric on how to be responsible! There is something to be said about being gutsy.

I too, decided to leave my epicurean footprint in as many places as possible. Chef Anirban Dasgupta has been a perennial favourite of mine for over a decade and a half. This supremely talented chef is a true-blue maverick and from his last stint here many years ago, he has travelled the length and breadth of our country honing and perfecting his culinary skills. His multi-course dinner at The Oberoi Hotel with a close knit group of gourmands was a delight! He walked us through his journey, of learning, innovation and technique in his own quintessential style, narrating stories and anecdotes making it all come alive through his gastronomical skills.

It would only be for my friends at The Chaîne des rôtisseurs and dear friend Vikas Seth that I would leave my 'footprint' at Manyata-Tech Park where our prestigious gastronomy society was conducting their monthly dinner at the Sanchez and Sriracha restaurants. In spite of it being a balmy evening, the exemplary dinner and innovative cocktails kept us in good spirits.

My 'foot-printing' wasn't over as I literally hop-skipped and jumped into the cool interiors of the JW Marriott to celebrate my dear friend Reuben Kataria's landmark birthday. Since it way a private and intimate party the guest-list abounded with his family and close friends who flew in from all over the world to be with him. It was touching, to say the least, when his father raised an emotional toast to his son and his pride and joy was reflected in his eyes. There were many moist eyes as his close friends spoke about a man they loved and admired.

Celebrations like these restore my faith in close bonds and friendships. If one separates the 'riff from the raff' (my version of 'wheat from the chaff') what remains is pure gold!

I sincerely feel that we all leave footprints in our journey through life. Make sure yours are worth following...

(The writer's views are personal)

Nidhi & Reuben Kataria

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Kalpana Sanghvi Kiran Raj** (old name) W/o. B.Kiran Raj aged about 56 years R/a No.13, Ward No.59, Maruthisevanagar Machperson Road, Bangalore-560005 have changed my name to **KALPANA SANGHVI** (new name) for all purposes in future vide affidavit dt 11.05.2024 Sworn before Notary & advocate K.C. Gowthami, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARATHI NARAYANASWAMY** W/O Narayanaswamy Venkataiah, R/A No.10/113,6th Main Road, M C Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, I Have Changed My Name From **BHARATHI NARAYANASWAMY** To **M R BHARATHI.** Vide Affidavit Date: 08/05/2024, Sworn Before Notary: Ratna.N

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ritu Mane** aged about 22 years D/O Rajashekar S.Mane, R/a No.202 Gangotri Enclave Apts, 36th cross, 11th main, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bangalore 560041, have changed my name from **Ritu Mane** to **Ritu Rajashekar Mane.**, vide affidavit dated 11/5/2024 sworn to before B.G.Sriram advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LATA RANI BHATT, W/o. HARISH TRIPATHI, aged about 56 years, residing at K002, Vijetha Elysium, Hagadur Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore-560 066, have changed my name to LATA TRIPATHI** Affidavit dated 11.05.2024 sworn before advocate and notary Umamaheswary, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
We, Mr. **BHARATKUMAR T BALCHANDANI** & Smt. **MANJULA B BALCHANDANI** parents of **BHAKTI B BALCHANDANI**, Residing at No. C 105, ETA Apartment ,K P Agrahara, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, hereby declare to correct our daughter's name in her school records as **BHAKTI B BALCHANDANI** instead of **BHAKTI B BALACHANDANI** and our names (i.e., Father's & Mother's correct name) as **BHARATKUMAR T BALCHANDANI** instead of **BHARATH KUMAR BALACHANDANI** & **MANJULA B BALCHANDANI** instead of **MANJULA B BALACHANDANI.** Vide affidavit dated: 8-5-2024, sworn before Notary Vanajakshi.R, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) JOBBY THOMAS** residing at No.441, 5th Cross, Shanthinikethan Layout, Bannerugatta Road, Arakere, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) JOBBY THOMAS** to **(NEW NAME) LEENA THOMAS** vide affidavit dated 11.05.2024 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRESHT SHIVAKUMAR GOGI**, S/o. Sri. Shivakumar Gogi, Aged about 19 years, residing at H. No. 45 (Old No. 369) 'KRISHNA', 8th Cross, 2nd Block, 60 ft. Road, R.M.V. 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 094, do hereby declare that, my name is **SHRESHT SHIVAKUMAR GOGI** and wherever the name **SHRESHT S GOGI, SHRESHT** are the name of one and the same person and that is my name. Vide affidavit dated 10.04.2024 sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VEERESH S** S/o Shivaraj, aged about 33 years, R/at No.402, Maribasappa Building, 1st Cross, Teachers Colony, Anekal Road, Opp. Swamy Vivekananda School, Chandapura, Anekal, Bangalore - 560 099, have changed my name from **VEERESH** (old name) to **VEERESH S** (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 09-05-2024 sworn before Notary S.R. Ravikkumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MUTHULAKSHMI S.C.** aged 38 years, residing of #1, Harohalli, Sulleri Post, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagar-562160, have changed my name from **MUTHULAKSHMAMMA S.C.** to **MUTHULAKSHMI S.C.** vide affidavit dated 09-05-2024 sworn before Notary **H.S. SAKALESH ARADHYA,** BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sharmistha Bhattacharjee, have changed my minor son's name from Atharv Gowda to **Atharv Bhattacharjee** vide affidavit sworn and notarised before Govt. of Karnataka Notary, S. Nagaraja (Reg. No. LAW/LCL166-2021), at Bengaluru dated 09/05/2024 in Book I, Reg. No.160 at Page 37. Henceforth, my son shall be known as **Atharv Bhattacharjee.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Gowri N Shetty, resident of Flat #003, DS Max Savior, 11th cross, Balaji Layout, Vajarahalli, Next to little Elly Preschool, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, Pin - 560062 have changed my name to GOWRI RAM PRASAD** Affidavit dated 11.05.2024 sworn before advocate and notary CN Balasubramanyam, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I Ms. ANDREA DOMINICA RODRIGUES W/o Vishesh H Manae Residing at : E 401, Sterling Terraces, Dr. Punith Rajkumar Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085 . Changed the name from *ANDREA DOMINICA RODRIGUES* to *AASHIKA MANAE* vide Affidavit dated 10.05.2024 Sworn before Advocate and Notary Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

The Judgement features a protagonist who seeks justice within the legal framework: Gururaj Kulkarni

The director chats with us about his upcoming film, ahead of its release on May 24

CE FEATURES

Gururaj Kulkarni (Nadagoud) is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film, *The Judgement* - See You in Court, scheduled for May 24. The director expresses satisfaction with the film's progress, starring Crazy Star Ravichandran in a prominent role, alongside Diganth, Dhanya Ramkumar, Meghana Gaonkar, and Lakshmi Gopalaswamy in the cast. He is confident that the audience will appreciate the film's content. Produced under the banner of G9 Communication Media, the film will be distributed by Reliance Entertainment. "I trust my judgement regarding my directorial skills and have full faith in the project," Gururaj asserts.

Through *The Judgement*, a courtroom thriller, Gururaj aims to shed light on the judicial system. "While the judicial system itself is well-designed, external influences often give the impression that it is inadequate. Unlike stereotypical films where the hero takes matters into his own hands, *The Judgement* features a protagonist who seeks justice within the legal framework. Even when faced with challenges, he remains committed to finding solutions within the system, rather than resorting to vigilante actions," he says. While Ravichandran plays the advocate, Lakshmi Gopalaswamy portrays a strong character as an opposing lawyer. "We have significant roles played by the female actors in *The Judgement*," he adds. With dialogues penned by MS Ramesh, the film's technical crew also comprises music composer Anoop Seelin, cinematographer PKH Das and editor Kemparaj.

Naga Bharana, Prakash Belawadi, Rangayana Raghu, Ravishankar Gowda, Sujay Shastry, Krishna Hebbale, Rekha Kudligi, and Navil round out the cast of *The Judgement*.

Gururaj Kulkarni

A still from the film

Ravichandran

KRISHNA IS NO LONGER A PART OF HISTORICAL PROJECT *HALAGALI*

The makers wanted the actor to exclusively commit to the project for 2 years until its release, but the actor has already committed to another film, *Father*. The team is now looking for a new lead actor

A SHARADHAA

Love Mocktail-fame actor Krishna, recently underwent rigorous training for over six months to portray a courageous warrior in Sukesh Nayak's upcoming multilingual historical project, *Halagali*. A big canvas film set in the pre-Independence era of 1857, *Halagali's* shooting commenced in February, with the inaugural shot taking place at the Lalith Mahal Palace in Mysuru. While Krishna participated in a day's shoot in March, the latest news is that the actor is no longer a part of the project.

Confirming Krishna's departure from *Halagali*, Sukesh says that creative differences led to the decision. "Since it was a historical film, the team expected actor Krishna, to commit 2 years exclusively for the project. We completed a couple of schedules covering episodes set in the British period, and Krishna participated in the shoot for a day. Meanwhile, the producers, who had finalised Krishna as the lead actor in September 2023, introduced a clause only much later when they learned that the actor was also working on *Father*, juggling between the two projects. After discussing the same with Krishna, the makers decided not to collaborate with the actor," says Sukesh. Further, the director mentions that although Krishna was ready to commit to the film alongside his other commitments, the producers wanted an actor who would completely focus on *Halagali*, as it is a big-budget project. "That is the only reason for his departure," he adds.

The team is now in search of a new face for *Halagali*. "We are in discussions with a couple of actors. We will make an official announcement once they agree to commit to our project until its release," he adds.

Produced by Kalyan Chakravarthy under the Duhara Movies banner, the makers are planning to make *Halagali* in Kannada and Telugu initially, and later release dubbed versions in various other languages. *Halagali* will have music by Vasuki Vaibhav and stunt choreography by National Award winner Vikram More.

> *We are in discussions with a couple of actors. We will make an official announcement once they agree to commit to our project until its release*
>
> - Sukesh Nayak, director

Krishna

BACK BENCHERS AUDITIONS ATTRACT 700 ASPIRING ACTORS

Director B R Rajashekar, who was seeking newcomers for his upcoming directorial, has finalised 20 young artists for the campus film

CE FEATURES

College-centric tales frequently make for good entertainers; their stories striking a chord with viewers across ages on multiple levels. The makers of *Back Benchers* are bringing back this familiar yet interesting trope to Kannada Cinema. Known for venturing into uncharted territory and showcasing fresh narratives, director BR Rajasekhar assembles a predominantly new cast for *Back Benchers*. The recently released teaser hints at a heartwarming story filled with laughter and camaraderie. The characters' comedic timing and the relatable plot promise an entertaining experience.

Produced by PP Productions, the film also stars director-turned-actor Aravind Kuplikar, Ranjan Narasimha Murthy, Jatin Aryan, Akash, Shashank Singh, Manya Gouda, Kunkum, Anusha Suresh, Manoj Shetty, and Namitha Gouda in significant roles. The film has music composed by Nakul Abhyankar and cinematography by Manohar Joshi.

Rajasekhar, who has previously directed *Trikona* and *Barfi*, is currently gearing up for the release of *Back Benchers*. Speaking to CE on the sidelines of the teaser launch, the director emphasised his commitment to creating a genuine campus experience in Back Benchers, which is why he prioritised casting fresh faces. After scouring through auditions with 700 aspiring actors, director Rajasekhar handpicked 20 of the most promising talents and honed their skills through a year-long workshop before cameras rolled. The makers are now gearing up for the release, likely in June. "The film comes with an eclectic mix of talent. With Back Benchers I aim to offer a fresh perspective on a familiar genre," he says.

A still from the film

Moorane Krishnappa sets release date

CE FEATURES

Naveen Reddy, the director of *Akira* and *Relax Satya*, is gearing up for the release of his next film, titled *Moorane Krishnappa*. The film features acclaimed artists Sampath Maitreya and Sripriya in lead roles, and Rangana Raghuvamshi essaying a key role.

The makers recently unveiled the trailer of *Moorane Krishnappa* and announced that the film will hit big screens on May 24. The trailer starts with a lighthearted conversation with Loose Mada Yogi and portrays the essence of the rural backdrop. *Moorane Krishnappa* is billed as a comical tale centred on a village temple inauguration that reflects the cultural charm of Kolar.

Produced by Mohan Reddy and Ravishankar's Red Dragon Films, the film boasts music by Anand Rajavikram and Suprith Sharma, and cinematography by Yogi.

Rangayana Raghu

Aniruddha lends his voice to the title track of *Chef Chidambara*

CE FEATURES

The M Anandraj directorial, *Chef Chidambara*, starring Aniruddha in the lead, recently wrapped up filming. With the post-production underway, the makers are gearing up to release the film soon. Kichcha Sudeep previously released a first-look poster of the film, featuring Aniruddha as a chef, which has already generated considerable anticipation for the film.

Aniruddha, the son-in-law of the veteran Vishnuvardhan who shot to fame with the television serial *Jotheyalli*, has now turned singer for *Chef Chidambara*. The actor has crooned the film's title track, *Prathi Baari Miti Meeri*, which is now available on the A2 Music channel. Composed by Ritvik Muralidhar and penned by Shree Ganesh Parashuram, the song also features a rap portion rendered by Mohit Gowda. Aniruddha has previously lent his voice to three other songs, out of which two are for other films.

Backed by Roopa DN of Damthi Pictures, Chef Chidambara has cinematography by Uday Leela. With Rachel David and Nidhi Subbaiah playing lead roles, the film also stars Sharath Lohithashwa, Shivamani, KS Sridhar, and others in supporting roles.

Aniruddha